

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (oral update)

27th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Mr President,

Ireland aligns itself with the intervention made on behalf of the European Union and thanks the members of the Commission of Inquiry and the officials of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights who are carrying out their mandate in a difficult environment.

Ireland would like to recognise those who have cooperated with the enquiry and commend their courage in coming forward.

Ireland continues to condemn the violation of basic rights, including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, house searches and restrictions on freedom of expression. We hope that the extreme contraction of the space for civil society, and the curtailment of civil and political rights, which were particularly severe during the constitutional referendum process, will be reversed. We also call on the Government of Burundi to end impunity by investigating and prosecuting all those who have violated human rights.

We note the remarks made by President Nkurunziza at the announcement of the new constitution that he will not seek re-election in 2020. We urge him and his government to use the remainder of their term to leave a legacy of peace and stability by respecting universal human rights and democratic principles. Ireland calls on the Burundian government to re-engage with regional and international bodies including the Commission of Inquiry and the OHCHR and to establish an intra-Burundian dialogue under the terms of the Arusha Accords.