



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **49th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on oral updates of the High Commissioner on the Democratic Republic of Congo and experts on Kasai*

**29 March 2022**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU, and thanks the Deputy High Commissioner and Experts for their update. We reaffirm our support for the work of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in DRC.

Ireland remains concerned by the human rights situation in the DRC, particularly reported human rights violations committed by state forces. Violations related to democratic space, including violent repression of demonstrations, and threats to civil society organisations, journalists and human rights defenders are particularly troubling. We call on the Government to ensure that all civil society actors can carry out their activities without interference or harassment.

Ireland condemns continued instances of conflict-related sexual violence. Allegations of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence must be fully investigated in a transparent manner, and perpetrators must be held to account.

Ireland welcomes the commitment of the Government of DRC to combat impunity and urges the Government to build upon progress to-date. We call upon the authorities to develop robust mechanisms to protect and promote human rights, uphold the rule of law and ensure accountability.

*In light of the upcoming elections in DRC, how can the international community best support the Government of the DRC to protect democratic space and continue to address impunity?*

Thank you.