



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

*Enhanced interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update
and report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

19 March 2019

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland thanks the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for the report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before, during and after the elections of December 2018, and recognises the work of the UN Joint Human Rights Office in DRC in compiling the findings of this report.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by reports of human rights violations during the period covered in the report, including violations of the right to life, the right to vote, to physical integrity, liberty and security, as well as of the rights to freedoms of expression and assembly. Ireland is further concerned at the violent repression of peaceful demonstrations and the continued shrinking democratic space in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Reports of the use of excessive force by defence forces and security services are deeply disturbing. Ireland urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to swiftly bring those responsible to justice by carrying out independent, credible and impartial investigations into all human rights violations.

Ireland is further concerned at the violations of freedom of the press, and urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure fundamental freedoms and human rights of journalists and members of the media are upheld.

Ireland calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take action to ensure that the deferred elections in Beni, Butembo, North Kivu and Yumbi take place in free and fair conditions, without further human rights violations.

Ireland recognises the challenges of investigating human rights abuses committed in the context of the electoral process. Could you expand on what kind of support the International community might be able to provide in these investigations?

Thank you.