



**Statement of Ireland**  
**44<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

**14 July 2020**

Madam President, *[Mr/Madam Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland would like to thank the Commission of Inquiry for this presentation, and to reaffirm our support for the ongoing work of the members of the Commission.

Ireland recognises that the recent presidential and legislative elections have the potential to be a significant turning point for Burundi. A new era of engagement with the international community is possible, built upon the shared recognition of the importance of investing in peace, improving the lives of women and children, and respecting human rights.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about reports of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture, and calls on the Government of Burundi to take immediate action to end human rights violations, to ensure that such violations are fully investigated, and to resume cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Ireland strongly urges the Government of Burundi to engage with the OHCHR and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a constructive manner, and to engage fully with members of the Commission of Inquiry, granting full access and the protections required to complete the Commission's important mandate.

*Noting the serious challenges previously faced by the Commission of Inquiry and OHCHR to fulfil their mandates as a result of barriers to access in Burundi, could you elaborate further on the concrete steps proposed in the short-term to address these barriers, following the election of the new President?*

Thank you.

**[FINAL WORD COUNT = 240 words]**