



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced ID on HC report on the Democratic Republic of Congo and final report of experts on Kasai

5 October 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner for this report on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ireland reaffirms its support for the work of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in DRC.

Ireland remains concerned by reports of serious human rights violations by State officials, including the suppression of peaceful demonstrations, as well as attacks and threats against journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors.

In particular, Ireland is deeply concerned by reports of crisis and conflict-related sexual violence. Ireland urges that all necessary measures are taken to prevent sexual violence. Allegations of sexual violence should be fully investigated; perpetrators brought to justice; and victims provided with adequate remedy including access to legal services, physical and psychosocial support.

Ireland welcomes the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to combat impunity and urges the Government to carry out independent, credible and impartial investigations into all human rights violations and abuses and to swiftly bring those responsible to justice.

The establishment of a transitional justice process is a welcome step towards ending impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo. How can the international community best support the Government of DRC in the further development and implementation of this approach?

Thank you.