

**29th session of the Universal Periodic Review
15 – 26 January 2018**

Review of Burundi

Statement of Ireland

18 January 2018

Thank you, Mr. (Vice) President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Burundi and thanks it for its presentation. We wish Burundi every success in this UPR cycle.

Ireland is deeply concerned by reports of grave human rights violations committed in Burundi since April 2015. These include extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and sexual violence.

Ireland greatly regrets Burundi's decision to suspend all cooperation and collaboration with the OHCHR. We echo the High Commissioner's concerns in relation to threats made against the members of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi. We therefore **recommend** that Burundi urgently resume its cooperation with OHCHR, and grant country access to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

Ireland is concerned that human rights defenders in particular have become targets of violence, harassment and intimidation in Burundi. We **recommend** that Burundi guarantee that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities independently and without fear of reprisals, prosecution or intimidation, and ensure prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all violations against them as well as prosecution of perpetrators.

Thank you