



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on the Democratic Republic of Congo and final report of experts on the Kasai

Friday, 2 October 2020

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner for her report, Ireland wishes to reaffirm its support for the work of the UNJHRO in DRC.

Ireland remains concerned by reports of serious human rights violations and abuses, including the suppression of peaceful demonstrations, as well as threats, violence and disproportionate use of force by the authorities and by armed groups in DRC.

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

Ireland is deeply concerned by continuing reports of sexual violence committed by armed groups. In particular, Ireland urges that all necessary measures be taken to prevent sexual and gender based violence. Allegations of sexual violence should be fully investigated; perpetrators should be brought to justice; and victims should be provided with adequate remedy including psycho-social support.

Ireland calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to create robust mechanisms which will protect and promote the human rights of all its citizens.

Madame High Commissioner, Ireland notes the report's call for support for efforts to combat impunity and to strengthen national mechanisms for the protection of human rights. How best can the international community provide support in this respect?

Thank you.