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## **Statement of Ireland**

### **54<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

#### *Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Burundi*

**22 September 2023**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his update.

Ireland welcomes the renewed international engagement by Burundi on the international stage, including through its current presidency of the EAC. We also welcome the engagement by Burundi during the visit by the EUSR on Human Rights.

While Ireland notes the lifting by the authorities in Burundi of some restrictions on the media and civil society, we remain deeply concerned by the continued killings, disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests, and detention of opponents of the government, including human rights defenders and journalists, which continue to be documented by international and Burundian rights groups. We are also concerned that the promises to regulate the ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure, remain unfulfilled.

Ireland urges Burundi to ensure that such violations and abuses of international law, including those by National Intelligence Service agents, are independently and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held to account. We strongly urge the authorities to ensure the rule of law and human rights are respected in Burundi.

Ireland also urges Burundi to engage with the Special Rapporteur and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a constructive manner, granting full access and the protections and information required to complete their mandates.

*Special Rapporteur, how can the international community best support Burundi in any future accountability process for human rights violations and abuses?*