



**Statement of Ireland**  
**41st session of the Human Rights Council**

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Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

**2 July 2019**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr (Vice) President,

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

Ireland remains concerned at reports of shrinking political and civil society space, particularly in light of upcoming elections scheduled for 2020. Ireland calls on the Government of Burundi to ensure adequate political and civil society space exists to allow for inclusive, democratic and transparent elections. Ireland further calls on the Government of Burundi to ensure that fundamental freedoms are upheld in the run up to the elections, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press.

Ireland continues to be concerned by reports of human rights violations and calls on the Government of Burundi to ensure that such violations are fully investigated.

Ireland calls again on the Government of Burundi to engage with the High Commissioner with a view to permitting the OHCHR to fulfil its mandate, to re-open its office, and resume its activities. Ireland strongly urges Burundi to engage with the OHCHR and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a cooperative and constructive manner, and to engage fully with members of the Commission of Inquiry, granting full access and protections required to complete Commission's mandate.

Thank you.