



**Statement of Ireland**  
**42nd session of the Human Rights Council**

---

Item 10: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of OHCHR on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**24 September 2019**

Ireland aligns itself fully with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland thanks OHCHR for the recent report on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and recognises the work of the UNJHRO in DRC in this respect.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by continuing reports of serious human rights violations, including the violent suppression of peaceful demonstrations, as well as threats and violence against human rights defenders and journalists.

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

Ireland is extremely concerned by reports of sexual violence committed by armed groups. In particular, Ireland urges that all necessary measures be taken to prevent sexual 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 its citizens.

*Ireland notes that during the post-electoral period a partial opening up of democratic space was observed. Despite the human rights violations reported, does your office believe that this represents some progress and, if so, can it be built upon in terms of working with the Government of the DRC to enact the recommendations made in this report?*

Thank you.