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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 10: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Report of the High Commissioner and Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo

8 October 2024

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the International Team of Experts for its report. We welcome the engagement of the DRC with OHCHR and this Council.

Ireland is concerned by the continuing conflict in eastern DRC and the related human rights violations and abuses. We are deeply concerned by reported violations of international humanitarian law, including the targeting of civilian populations by armed actors engaged in the conflict, and the documented widespread conflict-related sexual violence. We call on all parties to the conflict to fulfil their obligations in respect of civilian populations.

We note some progress in the DRC in respect of tackling impunity. We urge the Democratic Republic of Congo to investigate the credible, documented reports of serious human rights violations and abuses by members of the national security forces, as well as armed militia, in a transparent manner, and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

We deeply regret the decision of the DRC to lift the moratorium on the death penalty and urge the reversal of this decision.

In light of the findings of the Team of Experts, how might the international community best support the DRC in addressing ongoing human rights violations and abuses in conflict-affected areas, and in ending impunity for violations and abuses committed, including by state actors?