

Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Item 10 – Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

3 July 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the distinguished panellists for their presentation and notes the report of the Team of International Experts on the situation in Kasai. We are gravely concerned by the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

This grave human rights situation is directly linked to the ongoing political crisis. We call on the Government of the DRC to uphold the population's civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion and expression, and to ensure that peaceful, free, fair and credible elections are held in December 2018.

We are deeply concerned by the role of state agents in human rights violations, particularly reports of extra-judicial killings and conflict-related sexual violence.

Australia also remains deeply concerned by accounts of continuing significant human rights violations and abuses in conflict-affected areas of the country, including the abduction and forced recruitment of child soldiers.

Australia reiterates the need for the Government to ensure accountability for human rights violations and abuses, committed by state and non-state actors. We express our support for the work of the Team of International Experts and other UN teams working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

What actions are the Government of the DRC and other parties taking to fight impunity and bring to justice those committing violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law?

224 Words