

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

17 June 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner for her update.

We note the DRC Government's declaration of 2020 as a 'year of action'. We urge this include a renewed focus on delivering accountability for past and present human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, to bring an end to a culture of impunity. We also call on the DRC Government to prioritise security sector reform.

Australia recognises the potential for positive change inherent in last year's transition of power. We note actions by the DRC Government, together with international partners, to address instability, and urge a renewal of these efforts given the recent escalation in violent conflict.

Nonetheless, we are concerned about the violent response to political demonstrations in January 2020. We call on the DRC Government to ensure that civil and political rights are upheld, and any actor utilising excessive force is held to account.

We ask what Government initiatives are underway to support the enjoyment of civil liberties in the DRC?

168 words