

Human Rights Council – 44<sup>th</sup> session

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

14 July 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its oral update and ongoing work.

Australia remains deeply concerned by human rights violations and abuses in Burundi, including reports of extrajudicial abductions, torture and killings.

Australia welcomes the peaceful transition of power following the 2020 presidential elections and calls on the Burundian Government to establish a national mechanism to investigate human rights abuses and hold those responsible accountable. We urge the Government to collaborate with OHCHR and other international bodies to promote and protect the rights of all Burundians.

We continue to call on the Burundian Government to protect the rights of refugees who are being encouraged to return to Burundi from neighbouring countries and to ensure their reintegration into the country is voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable.

Australia remains deeply concerned by reports of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. We ask the Commission what steps can be taken to support the Burundian Government to end gender-based violence and ensure that survivors and victims have access to justice and support services?

*172 words.*