



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
39th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

Geneva, 17 September 2018

Mr President,

First, let me thank the Commission of Inquiry for its report and presentation today. Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make additional remarks in its national capacity:

We share the deep concern of others on the reports on the persistence of serious human rights violations in Burundi, including those that can amount to crimes against humanity. We also deplore that perpetrators of such violations are operating in an overall climate of impunity. In this regard Slovenia would like to reiterate that the Government of Burundi bears the primary responsibility to protect its population, particularly those most vulnerable.

We also deplore that Burundi has continued refusing the cooperation with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and the OHCHR experts, who are deployed in accordance with the HRC resolution 36/2 supported by Burundi itself.

We also note with concern the absence of independent international mechanisms in Burundi that are in a position to investigate human rights violations. In this regard Slovenia would like to support the extension of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry and call on the Government of Burundi to cooperate with the Commission and other international human rights mechanisms.

We would also like to reiterate that in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 each member of this distinguished Council should always fulfil its human rights obligations and uphold the highest human rights standards at home.

Members of the Commission,

In its foreign policy Slovenia pays particular attention to the rights and wellbeing of children, since the situation of children today reflects the situation of our societies in the future. In this regard we would like to ask the distinguished members of the Commission how would they describe the situation on the rights and wellbeing of children in Burundi and which immediate measures need to be implemented to improve this situation?

Thank you!