



**59th session of the Human Rights Council
Item 4**

Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi

26 June 2025

Mr President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the three Benelux countries, Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and my own country, Luxembourg. We align with the EU statement and thank the Special Rapporteur for his oral update.

The Benelux notes with appreciation the peaceful manner in which the parliamentary and local elections took place on 5 June this year. We are however concerned by the allegations of several irregularities in the electoral process and at the lack of pluralism in the new National Assembly. Meaningful participation of all political actors is essential for democratic governance. We encourage Burundi to embrace the values of pluralism and freedom of expression as a heritage of the Arusha accords and the democratic achievements of 1993 and 2005.

We are deeply concerned about continued and persistent patterns of human rights violations and cases of impunity for its perpetrators in Burundi. We urge the Burundian authorities to step up its efforts to impartially and effectively investigate all allegations of intimidation, violence, arbitrary arrest and forced disappearances of journalists, media workers, human rights defenders, opposition party members and others and step up its efforts to protect civic space.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

What steps can the international community take to strengthen an enabling environment for civil society in Burundi?