



62th Session of the Human Rights Council
Benelux Intervention
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Burundi
29 June 2026

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of our longstanding BENELUX union: Belgium, the Kingdom of Netherlands, and my own country, Luxembourg. We align with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his oral update. We welcome the efforts taken to reduce the overpopulation in prisons, including through the release of prisoners, and call upon the authorities to address further structural problems affecting the independence of the judiciary and access to justice.

One year before the 2027 presidential elections, civic space and media freedom remains under severe pressure, with ongoing intimidation and harassment targeting civil society actors, raising serious concerns. We regret that 9 years after the International Criminal Court opened an investigation into crimes against humanity that were allegedly committed between April 2015 and October 2017, Burundi continues its policy of non-cooperation. Finally, we call on the Burundian authorities to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur as well as other thematic special procedures and allow them to conduct a country visit.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

What actions should be prioritized to create an enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders and the media in Burundi, in particular in the run-up to the 2027 presidential elections?