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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Democratic Republic of the Congo

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in French.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-third session from 6 to 17 May 2019. The review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was held at the 3rd meeting, on 7 May 2019. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was headed by the Minister for human rights, Ms. Marie-Ange Mushobekwa. At its 10th meeting, held on 10 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Cameroon, Qatar and Croatia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/COD/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/COD/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/COD/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

[To be completed by 24 May 2019]

A. Presentation by the State under review

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

5. During the interactive dialogue, 99 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

6. The following recommendations will be examined by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

6.1 Continue the practice of becoming a party to the international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);

- 6.2 Envisage the accession to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (Switzerland);
- 6.3 Ratify the two major outstanding human rights treaties, which they are not yet party to (Lesotho);
- 6.4 Ratify the remaining three main human rights instruments (Mozambique);
- 6.5 Envisage ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 6.6 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);
- 6.7 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and abolish the death penalty in domestic legislation (Uruguay);
- 6.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Albania);
- 6.9 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Austria);
- 6.10 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);
- 6.11 Commute the sentences of individuals currently on death row, consider initiating a political and legislative process aimed at the abolition of the death penalty and subsequently ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Moldova);
- 6.12 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France, Germany, Rwanda);
- 6.13 Consider accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Georgia);
- 6.14 Envision the accession to the second optional protocol to the international Covenant on civil and political rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Italy);
- 6.15 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Togo);
- 6.16 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right and abolish the death penalty (Portugal);
- 6.17 Speed up the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Afghanistan);

- 6.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Portugal);**
- 6.19 **Take the necessary measures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**
- 6.20 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**
- 6.21 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);**
- 6.22 **Take action to prevent extrajudicial executions and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal);**
- 6.23 **Ratify and implement the 2014 ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention 1930, (PO29) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 6.24 **Consider ratifying the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and ensure that Congolese domestic law takes into consideration the obligations set out in the said Convention (Senegal);**
- 6.25 **Ratify and domesticate the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (Uganda);**
- 6.26 **Bring to a successful conclusion the ratification process of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, and ensure that its provisions are reflected in national legislation by promulgating or amending the relevant laws on the protection and assistance to displaced persons (Chad);**
- 6.27 **Increase the national unity to promote the international institutions of human rights (Sudan);**
- 6.28 **Fulfil its reporting obligations under the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Afghanistan);**
- 6.29 **Issue standing invitation to all UN special procedures (Ukraine);**
- 6.30 **Cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);**
- 6.31 **Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**
- 6.32 **Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms including the UN expert team supporting the investigation of murder of UN investigators in Kasai region in 2017 (Czechia);**
- 6.33 **Continue to cooperate with the ICC in its investigations into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the DRC since 2002 (Liechtenstein, Luxembourg);**

- 6.34 Continue collaboration with UN system and international partners in consolidating peace, stability and development of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Maldives);
- 6.35 Continue to work with both local and international players in bringing lasting peace to that war-torn country (Sierra Leone);
- 6.36 Expedite parliamentary approval of draft legislation for the promotion and protection of human rights (South Africa);
- 6.37 Continue developing its national legislation constantly in line with international standards (Azerbaijan);
- 6.38 Implement a National Action Plan for assistance to the victims of anti-personnel mines that can be measurable and time bound, which guarantee their rights on equal conditions, and covers needs in regard to disabilities, health, social assistance, education, employment, development and poverty reduction (Argentina);
- 6.39 Continue institutional reforms and capacity building particularly in promoting gender equality and the status of women and children (Bhutan);
- 6.40 Accelerate the signing of the decree to operationalize the national council for children and guarantee unconditional free access for children to health and education (Liechtenstein);
- 6.41 Strengthen the national institutions and mechanisms responsible for coordinating and following up the implementation of the recommendations of past UPRs and other UN human rights mechanisms (Kenya);
- 6.42 Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 09/001 of 10 January 2009 on the protection of children, with a view to establish the National Council of Children as soon as possible (Malta);
- 6.43 Keep mobilizing resources and seek the necessary national support to enhance its capacity to promote and protect human rights (Nigeria);
- 6.44 Continue its efforts to improving access to basic social needs and continuing institutional reforms in the areas of public administration, the army and the police and the judicial system for the promotion of human rights (Yemen);
- 6.45 Provide adequate annual financial assistance to the “Fatherhood Program”, called “Baba Bora” in the DRC and other similar programs in the country in order to change the mentality on masculinity and promote gender equality, with the view of expanding such programs throughout to the whole country (Haiti);
- 6.46 Continue developing and implementing programmes and projects to improve youth employment (Philippines);
- 6.47 Establish a National Preventive Mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);
- 6.48 Take efficient actions to avoid acts of torture committed by the security forces and establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Spain);
- 6.49 Fulfil its obligations from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and immediately establish an independent National Preventive

Mechanism for the prevention of torture with the mandate to visit all places of detention (Czechia);

6.50 Put in place a national mechanism for the prevention of torture in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);

6.51 Put in place as soon as possible the national preventive mechanism following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Mauritius);

6.52 Set up of a national preventive mechanism against torture (Montenegro);

6.53 Designate or establish an independent national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Sierra Leone);

6.54 Strengthen support for the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with its needs (South Africa);

6.55 Establish a national and independent mechanism for the prevention of torture and cooperate with the Office of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the country (Costa Rica);

6.56 Strengthen measures to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission (Côte d'Ivoire);

6.57 Strengthen the resources of the National Commission on Human Rights and ensure its independence (France);

6.58 Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is sufficiently resourced (Namibia);

6.59 Consider ways to reinforce the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);

6.60 Continue implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan to promote social and economic rights of the people (Myanmar);

6.61 Implement the new National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (for the years 2018 to 2022) (Norway);

6.62 Expedite the finalization of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and provide for its immediate implementation (Philippines);

6.63 Continue efforts to raise awareness, education and training in human rights (Libya);

6.64 Strengthen awareness raising, education and Human Rights training (Mauritania);

6.65 To fully implement the national action plan to end child marriage by promoting nationwide awareness-raising campaign aimed at preventing child pregnancy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

6.66 Step up efforts in training duty bearers on the Convention of the Rights of the Child (Philippines);

6.67 Enhance human rights education and training for government officials, policy officers and security forces to prevent human rights violations and disproportionate use of force by State agents (Republic of Korea);

- 6.68 Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the investigation report on the situation in Kasai to prevent any violations of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights (Austria);
- 6.69 Embark on every measure possible to find a lasting solution to humanitarian and human rights challenges that continue to beset the country (Lesotho);
- 6.70 Conduct regular inspections of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo missions to guarantee that human rights standards and provisions of humanitarian law are met (Germany);
- 6.71 Enhance its efforts to eliminate all negative forces on its territory and where relevant repatriate them to their countries of origin (Rwanda);
- 6.72 Ensure equality of rights, by passing legislation that criminalizes discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, and allows access to justice for those affected (Uruguay);
- 6.73 Adopt the necessary measures to prevent and punish all acts of discrimination and violence, in particular against LGBTIQ persons, and persons with albinism, ensuring their protection and due compensation (Argentina);
- 6.74 Revoke articles 175 and 176 of the Criminal Code that discriminate against LGBT persons because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and to reject legislative proposals that criminalize consensual relations between adults of the same sex (Chile);
- 6.75 Combat all forms of violence against persons with albinism and against any child accused of witchcraft, and punish the perpetrators of such acts (Gabon);
- 6.76 Immediately repeal all provisions, including articles 175 and 176 of the Penal Code, resulting in discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (Iceland);
- 6.77 Adopt legislative measures to combat discrimination against the pygmy populations, as well as holding prior consultations to obtain their free and informed consent before the adoption of measures that may have consequences for their way of life (Mexico);
- 6.78 Take concrete measures in order to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (Portugal);
- 6.79 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and raise people's living standards to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 6.80 Strengthen measures on social protection and legal assistance for victims of gender-based violence, as well as towards adolescents forced to go into marriage (Honduras);
- 6.81 Provide better supports and services to the victims of sexual and gender-based violence, especially women and children (Indonesia);
- 6.82 Continue strengthening the legal framework on business and human rights including developing and adopting a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to stop violations related to exploitation of natural resources (Kenya);

- 6.83 Ensure the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression (Costa Rica);
- 6.84 Formally abolish the death penalty (Australia);
- 6.85 Take steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica);
- 6.86 Commute the sentences of individuals that are currently on death row and initiate a political and legislative process aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein);
- 6.87 Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty (Iceland);
- 6.88 Continue measures aimed at correcting the situation and the work of the judiciary and penitentiary system (Russian Federation);
- 6.89 End the use of violence and disproportionate force against opposition supporters, and the release of those that have been arbitrarily arrested and detained whilst exercising their right to demonstrate peacefully (Zambia);
- 6.90 Lift media restrictions implemented over the electoral period, and bring to justice those responsible for threats against journalists, the political opposition and human rights defenders (Australia);
- 6.91 Ensure that members of political parties, journalists and human rights defenders can carry out their activities without intimidation, reprisal or harassment. (Canada);
- 6.92 Ensure protection of human rights defenders and journalists with emphasis on freedom of expression and assembly (Czechia);
- 6.93 Fully protect everyone's rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association (Estonia);
- 6.94 Take the legislative measures necessary to ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression comply with the requirements set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ensure their effective implementation (Republic of Moldova);
- 6.95. Adopt two laws on access to information and freedom of the press (France);
- 6.96. Ensure journalists, opposition leaders, human rights defenders and other civil society actors are able to freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly without fear of harassment, intimidation or reprisals (Ireland);
- 6.97. Step Up efforts to guarantee the freedom of expression, assembly and association and adopt effective measures to ensure the protection of Human Rights Defenders and journalists (Italy);
- 6.98. Adopt a clear legal framework of the right to assembly, in order to avoid violations of the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, such as criminalizing peaceful protesters (Germany);
- 6.99. Ensure that media broadcasters remain free of political pressure, and protect journalists, including by prompt, effective investigations into concerns about their safety (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 6.100 **Adopt legislation recognizing and effectively protecting the work of human rights defenders, and ensure exhaustive and independent investigations of the allegations of human rights violations against them (Uruguay);**
- 6.101 **Adopt the law on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders (Burkina Faso);**
- 6.102 **Adopt the law on human rights defenders (France);**
- 6.103 **Take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders (Norway);**
- 6.104 **Review the draft NGO and human rights defenders' bills to ensure that they do not lead to restrictions on civil society (Sweden);**
- 6.105 **Guarantee the constitutional right of each citizen to participate in public affairs and to demonstrate peacefully by adopting by the end of 2019 a law guaranteeing the right to demonstrate, in conformity with international standards (Belgium);**
- 6.106 **Adopt concrete measures to ensure full respect of freedoms of assembly, association and expression (Spain);**
- 6.107 **Consider initiating a new legal framework in compliance with international law and standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly (Ghana);**
- 6.108 **Protect the rights of journalists and human rights defenders as well as those of political opponents by improving the legislative framework related to the freedom of expression, association and assembly (Luxembourg);**
- 6.109 **Take necessary steps to ensure that laws and regulations are in full compliance with the DRC's international obligations with respect to freedom of assembly, association and expression (Maldives);**
- 6.110 **Continue reforms aimed at building a strong civil society, enjoying independent, pluralistic media with free access to public information and legal protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Poland);**
- 6.111 **Adopt and promulgate the law fixing the implementation measures of the freedom to demonstrate, to ensure the freedoms of assembly and association in accordance with the Constitution and international obligations (Sweden);**
- 6.112 **Withdraw all media closure measures and no longer resort to the practice of limiting or cutting off communications systems (such as the internet and sms), including during moments of tension or popular mobilization (Belgium);**
- 6.113 **Ensure accountability for human rights violations through independent investigations and prosecution, and access to justice and full reparation for victims (Ukraine);**
- 6.114 **Ensure the functioning of an independent judicial system and facilitate victims' effective access to justice (Estonia);**
- 6.115 **Continue institutional reforms in the areas of public administration and the judicial system (Ethiopia);**
- 6.116 **Investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal exploitation of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in Shabunda territory (Fiji);**

- 6.117 Strengthen human resources to improve the work of the judicial system (Iraq);
- 6.118 Continue to deepen democracy (Botswana);
- 6.119 Work with democratic civil society and the international community towards effectively reaching peace in the country (Cabo Verde);
- 6.120 Further the progress to end and prevent conflict related sexual violence, especially against women and children, primarily through holding the perpetrators to account and by the provision of adequate support and services to survivors (Slovenia);
- 6.121 Strengthen the national strategy against sexual violence by involving survivors and ensuring their access to justice, to health services and income generating activities and to ensure that perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted and convicted (Luxembourg);
- 6.122 Strengthen the capacity and independence of the judicial system to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence, including through training programmes for police officers and health professionals, and providing effective and necessary support for victims (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 6.123 Address the accumulation and illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons through improved stockpile management, effective prosecution of unauthorised sellers and distributors, and progression of legislative controls (Australia);
- 6.124 Conduct prompt and impartial inquiries into the allegations of extrajudicial executions (Austria);
- 6.125 Take the necessary measures to improve respect for human rights by investigating the allegations of extrajudicial killings and human rights violations and abuses by law enforcement officials, and ensure accountability for these violations and the protection of civilians in conflict zones (Canada);
- 6.126 Investigate, prosecute and convict persons responsible for harassment, threats or intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders (Republic of Moldova);
- 6.127 Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence and the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Shabunda territory (Fiji);
- 6.128 Shed light on the serious human rights violations committed by armed groups and certain members of the security forces and prosecute their perpetrators (France);
- 6.129 Ensure accountability for perpetrators of War crimes and Crimes against humanity, regardless of rank or affiliation (Iceland);
- 6.130 Ensure that law enforcement officials and members of the security forces strictly adhere to obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law (Iceland);
- 6.131 Carry out investigations and prosecute all the cases of abuses of human Rights, including when they were committed by members of security forces and facilitate victims' access to justice (Italy);

- 6.132 Strengthen efforts to end impunity for human rights violations by undertaking prompt, impartial and effective investigations into reported cases and bringing perpetrators to justice (Republic of Korea);
- 6.133 Intensify efforts to ensure that all alleged perpetrators of crimes against international human rights and humanitarian law are brought to justice (Sweden);
- 6.134 Take all necessary measures to end impunity for serious human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and in this regard, cooperate with international mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court (Slovenia);
- 6.135 Swiftly remove any individuals involved in human rights violations or abuses from positions in the government and security forces, and hold them criminally accountable, including those responsible through command responsibility (United States of America);
- 6.136 Investigate and punish judicial corruption and implement reforms designed to promote judiciary independence and impartiality (United States of America);
- 6.137 Guarantee investigations and sanction effectively cases of human rights violations in order to combat impunity (Argentina);
- 6.138 Ensure that perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations, including against journalists, online media professionals, bloggers and human rights defenders, are brought to justice (Austria);
- 6.139 Set up a vetting mechanism as part of security sector reform efforts with a view to carrying out investigations to bring to justice and sanction officials involved in serious human rights violations, including perpetrators of recruitment and use of children (Belgium);
- 6.140 Strengthen actions to combat impunity in relation to human rights violations, including those committed by the security forces (Spain);
- 6.141 Adopt all necessary measures to combat the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations and undertake an inclusive process of transitional justice to clarify the truth, provide reparation to victims and ensure reconciliation (Chile);
- 6.142 Establish mechanisms of transitional justice, combat impunity of the perpetrators of violations of human rights and strengthen cooperation with the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica);
- 6.143 Launch credible investigations into all alleged gross human rights violations and crimes under international law, including those involving senior military officials, to end the cycle of impunity (Ghana);
- 6.144 Bring to justice the perpetrators of graves human rights violations, including sexual and gender violence, and put in place appropriate mechanisms of transitional justice in the area of truth, justice, reparation and reform (Switzerland);
- 6.145 Accelerate efforts towards full implementation of the 2017-2026 National Policy on Justice Sector Reform (Namibia);

- 6.146 Strengthen, in line with SDG 16, efforts to end the cycle of impunity and ensure the prosecution of all suspected perpetrators of human rights violations, especially in Eastern DRC and the Kasais (Netherlands);
- 6.147 Carry out information campaigns on the new provisions of the Family Code in order to promote cultural change towards a more equitable gender-based society (Uruguay);
- 6.148 Continue with implementation of measures for further improvement in the socio-economic conditions of its people (India);
- 6.149 Continue strengthen the social programmes in favour of the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 6.150 Improve access to basic social services, especially for the most vulnerable members of the population (Zimbabwe);
- 6.151 Improve access to basic social needs (Benin);
- 6.152 Continue efforts in improving access to basic social needs (Bhutan);
- 6.153 Continue its efforts in the fight against poverty and the promotion of national reconciliation (Nigeria);
- 6.154 Strengthen the legal and institutional framework to guarantee adequate and sufficient access to drinking water in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 6.155 Ensure that business operations comply with international human rights law, labour law and environmental law (Fiji);
- 6.156 Consider regularizing unauthorized mining areas, taking into account safety and policy considerations (Ghana);
- 6.157 Take drastic and concrete measures to guarantee the integral payment of taxes to all mining commercial companies (Haiti);
- 6.158 Continue strengthening efforts to implement the national health development plan (South Africa);
- 6.159 Allocate more funds to the health sector to allow for a better care on services relating to sexual violence, emergency obstetric and neonatal among others (Angola);
- 6.160 Step up efforts to ensure the implementation of public policies to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS (Brazil);
- 6.161 Intensify efforts to prevent the spread of Ebola Virus (Iraq);
- 6.162 Seek the support of the international community to put an end to the deadly Ebola scourge in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Sierra Leone);
- 6.163 Continue efforts to introduce strong public health policy and programs aimed at raising awareness of the communities that constitute a solid foundation to combat communicable disease (Eritrea);
- 6.164 Strengthen the constitutional provisions relating to education, including its provision of free of charge, explicitly guarantee equitable and inclusive access to education for all, and prohibit discrimination, particularly in the educational sector (Afghanistan);

- 6.165 Further strengthen its effort to ensure free primary education for all children in line with its national policy on education and by engaging with relevant United Nations agencies (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 6.166 Intensify efforts in the field of education to ensure access to free and quality education for all, including indigenous and rural populations, in accordance with article 43 of the Constitution (Djibouti);
- 6.167 Continue with the expansion of free primary education for all children free of charge (Estonia);
- 6.168 Guarantee effective measures allowing access for all the children to free primary education, including children with disabilities, those living in rural areas and migrant children (Gabon);
- 6.169 Take steps for ensuring access to education, health and other basic services by all its children (India);
- 6.170 Continue to support and allocate adequate budget to education programmes for children especially the children from poor families in the rural and urban areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 6.171 Continue to encourage girls' entry into all field of study (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 6.172 Encourage the steps taken to ensure gender equality in education, particularly concerning combatting school dropout and prevent its repetition and take the necessary measures to increase the enrolment of girls and women in education and attain higher education (Lebanon);
- 6.173 Implement specific measures and carry out campaigns for reducing early pregnancy and ensure the reinsertion of young mothers into the educational system (Togo);
- 6.174 Continue efforts in education and health for the benefit of the largest number of the population (Libya);
- 6.175 Take further measures to end child recruitment and child labour by making free school education and reintegration of child soldiers a priority (Germany);
- 6.176 Take measure to rehabilitate former child soldiers, reintegrate them into society (Portugal);
- 6.177 Take measures to reintegrate young mothers back into the education system (Malta);
- 6.178 Redouble efforts to narrow the gap in literacy between girls and boys, and to put in place specific measures to combat the obstacles to the education of children (Mauritius);
- 6.179 Continue efforts to facilitate access to education (Morocco);
- 6.180 Continue utmost efforts in providing access for all children to primary and secondary education, eliminate illiteracy and invest in improvement of quality and competences of teachers (Poland);
- 6.181 Continue to take positive measures to further protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities (China);

- 6.182 **Ensure protection in legislation and practice of the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, in particular women, children, the disabled, the elderly and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);**
- 6.183 **Legalise the termination of pregnancies in cases of rape, incest and severe foetal impairment (Denmark);**
- 6.184 **Take measures to eliminate discriminatory practices against women, including ensuring respect for women's land inheritance (Norway);**
- 6.185 **Create an effective mechanism to prevent gender-based violence (Ukraine);**
- 6.186 **Step up actions to efficiently combat sexual violence against women, in the implementation framework of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, (Spain);**
- 6.187 **Eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and citizens in general (Cabo Verde);**
- 6.188 **Strengthen the implementation of measures and provisions to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, strengthening educational activities and public awareness campaigns in order to combat traditional discriminatory practices (Honduras);**
- 6.189 **Finalize the review of the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence by defining specific measures for tackling domestic violence (Senegal);**
- 6.190 **Ensure consistent implementation of enforcement of the laws and sex discrimination and violence against women and girls, including consequences for those who discriminate against women and girls, or engage on abuses (United States of America);**
- 6.191 **Strengthen efforts with respect to the protection of victims of sexual violence in particular by speeding up the implementation of the FARDC plan of action (Austria);**
- 6.192 **Create a support program for victims of sexual and gender-based violence for access to justice and access to healthcare and establish a national reparation fund (Belgium);**
- 6.193 **Improve the training of security forces in combatting violations of human rights, especially sexual violence against women and girls, and end impunity (Brazil);**
- 6.194 **Strengthen the fight against sexual violence by prosecuting the perpetrators of such violence and by providing compensation to the victims (Burkina Faso);**
- 6.195 **Strengthen its efforts in the fight against sexual violence, improve the provision of support and services to survivors, ensure the protection of survivors and witnesses, ensure that those responsible are brought to justice, and that reparation is granted (Canada);**
- 6.196 **Take all necessary measures to combat sexual violence against women and children during conflicts (Congo);**
- 6.197 **Protect people from sexual violence, particularly in armed conflicts, and provide medical services and access to justice for victims (France);**

- 6.198 Increase efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and violence in school, and take sufficient steps to reintegrate and rehabilitate victims of sexual and gender-based crimes (Liechtenstein);
- 6.199 Continue preventing and combating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape through national legislation (Indonesia);
- 6.200 Carry out independent, credible and impartial investigations into allegations of sexual and gender based violence in conflict to ensure those responsible may be brought to justice (Ireland);
- 6.201 Intensify efforts to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence and promulgate the corresponding legal framework to offer adequate protection (Mexico);
- 6.202 Take bold measures to address gender-based and sexual violence (Mozambique);
- 6.203 Adopt effective measures to combat sexual and gender-based violence in order to reduce impunity (Norway);
- 6.204 Intensify the implementation of policies and programmes to combat sexual violence, particularly in conflict situations, and strengthen measures for victim protection (Philippines);
- 6.205 Continue all possible efforts in adopting legislation and implementing operational framework focusing on protecting women and children from violence, including sexual violence and harassment, also in the context of the security sector reform (Poland);
- 6.206 Take all necessary measures to protect women and children from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, in conflict-affected provinces (Republic of Korea);
- 6.207 Allocate a budget for the implementation of the FARDC and PNC action plans to combat sexual violence (Sweden);
- 6.208 Strengthen measures to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including through the implementation of the action plan of the security services to combat sexual violence (Rwanda);
- 6.209 Institute a legal framework that criminalises and punishes domestic violence and marital rape, trains officials in responding to such crimes, and extends services to survivors (Australia);
- 6.210 Take additional measures that are more effective in eliminating and preventing sexual violence against children (Georgia);
- 6.211 Step up efforts to prevent and combat all forms of domestic violence against women (Georgia);
- 6.212 Step up efforts to combat gender-based violence, including domestic violence, child early and forced marriage and sexual violence against children in areas affected by the conflict (Italy);
- 6.213 Adopt and implement, in line with SDG 5, legislation that addresses domestic violence, and take concrete steps to end domestic violence and marital rape (Netherlands);

- 6.214 Pursue efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 6.215 Increase political representation of women in the national and provincial legislatures (Zimbabwe);
- 6.216 Take all necessary measures to step up the participation of women in public life (Albania);
- 6.217 Increase participation of women in public life, in particular their representation at the highest levels of the government (Algeria);
- 6.218 Expedite the updating of the national gender policy and increase the participation of women in political life (South Africa);
- 6.219 Take further steps to advance women's participation in political and public life (Bulgaria);
- 6.220 Increase the political participation of women, fight against traditional discriminatory practices and eliminate gender-based stereotypes at all levels of society (Costa Rica);
- 6.221 Pursue the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase women's participation in political and public life and women's economic empowerment (Djibouti);
- 6.222 Continue its efforts to empower women and increase their representation in the political life (Egypt);
- 6.223 Step-up the efforts for the participation of women in political and public life and their representation in decision-making bodies (Ethiopia);
- 6.224 Encourage the participation of women in politics (France);
- 6.225 Ensure a better representation of women in national political and decision-making bodies (Gabon);
- 6.226 Review the current electoral law with the aim of removing all obstacles that prevent many Congolese women from presenting themselves as candidates for elected positions, for instance, removing the 1000 dollars payment required from candidates for women only, in full consultation with women's organization (Haiti);
- 6.227 Continue measures for empowering women and girls through provision of equal socio-economic opportunities and encouraging participation in political and decision making levels (India);
- 6.228 Implement the law on parity and enforce women's representation in government, regarding women's rights and gender equality (Germany);
- 6.229 Continue measures to promote gender equality and women's role in political and public life (Myanmar);
- 6.230 Take measures to improve gender parity in political life and in peace negotiations in line with the National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (Namibia);
- 6.231 Take measures in order to increase the participation of women in public life, especially in terms of their representation at the highest levels of government and in the judicial system (Serbia);

- 6.232 Enhance efforts to increase women participation in public life and address sexual and gender-based violence (Uganda);
- 6.233 Take steps to eliminate child labour, including in illegal mines, and establish structures to support affected children (Australia);
- 6.234 Adopt a comprehensive national child policy covering the areas included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols (Benin);
- 6.235 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Denmark);
- 6.236 Continue its efforts to protect and promote children's rights (Egypt);
- 6.237 Take effective measures to prevent children from being accused of witchcraft, criminalize the persecution of accused children, and bring perpetrators of violence against and ill-treatment of children accused of witchcraft to justice (Liechtenstein);
- 6.238 Take appropriate measures to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against children, including those with disabilities and those accused of witchcraft (Italy);
- 6.239 Ensure the enforcement of existing norms on children accused of witchcraft to guarantee that perpetrators who commit offences against children are brought to justice (Malta);
- 6.240 Establish public structures for the reception of children removed from the mines and for counselling, support and stabilisation of those children (Zambia);
- 6.241 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings including the home (Zambia);
- 6.242 Combat all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. Ensure that such cases are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. Provide to the victims adequate protection and support, including through strengthened social services, awareness raising and access to justice (Bulgaria);
- 6.243 Take the necessary measures to ensure that children are not exploited in artisanal mines (Canada);
- 6.244 Ensure compliance with the norms that sanction child labour in the mining sector through awareness campaigns, regular inspections and the effective imposition of penalties provided by law (Chile);
- 6.245 Fight effectively against the phenomenon of children accused of sorcery (Congo);
- 6.246 Run a nationwide awareness campaign on the phenomenon of children accused of witchcraft and ensure that those responsible for such offenses against children are punished (Iceland);
- 6.247 Eliminate all forms of exploitation of child labour in the mining industry (Switzerland);
- 6.248 Continue its support to the legal framework and strategies for awareness-raising for children in order to combat the issue of child labour (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

- 6.249 Establish a strong legislative framework to prohibit and sanction all corporal punishment of children (Madagascar);
- 6.250 Enaction of legislation to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all kinds of settings, including home (Montenegro);
- 6.251 Continue efforts to protect the rights of children, notably with regard to the fight against child labour (Morocco);
- 6.252 Continue efforts to promote child rights and protect children from sexual violence (Tunisia);
- 6.253 Take further steps to protect children from being engaging in military activities (Eritrea);
- 6.254 Implement inclusive measures to ensure non-discrimination against persons with disabilities, children living in rural areas, children living in the street, and adolescents in detention (Algeria);
- 6.255 Strengthen the protection of human rights of people with disabilities (Botswana);
- 6.256 Finalise the special law on the protection of persons with special needs (Lebanon);
- 6.257 Pursue legislative measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, notably those relating to the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 6.258 Consider the adoption of special laws, in accordance with the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, that would more effectively address the issues concerning children with disabilities (Serbia);
- 6.259 Undertake legal measures enabling effective protection of minorities, including religious ones, which would be complemented by educational campaigns on the importance of freedom of religious beliefs (Poland);
- 6.260 Continue developing the Draft Law on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, to promote respect for their ancestral lands, according to the uses and customs of all the Pygmy indigenous peoples (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 6.261 Ensure that the rights of indigenous people be guaranteed and respected (Madagascar);
- 6.262 Pass the proposed law from 2014 on the fundamental principle for promoting and protecting the rights of the DRC's indigenous peoples (Norway);
- 6.263 Take steps to promulgate legislations aimed at promoting and protecting all forms of human rights including rights to peaceful demonstration and the rights of indigenous pygmy people (Sierra Leone);
- 6.264 Put in place measures to address the issue of birth certificates for children, especially returnees, refugees and IDPs (Angola);
- 6.265 Take all necessary measures to ensure universal, free birth registration, including by reviewing the civil registration law, implementing "catch-up" policies and strengthening cooperation with health centres and maternities (Bulgaria);
- 6.266 Finalize the process of establishing an inter-institutional national committee mandated to address Issues of statelessness (Kenya);

6.267 Reform the relevant laws to address statelessness, and facilitate birth registration and the issuance of identity documents (Mexico).

7. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was headed by Ms. Marie-Ange Mushobekwa, Minister for human rights composed of the following members:

- Mr. Zénon MUKONGO NGAY, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la République Démocratique du Congo auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des Institutions Spécialisées à Genève;
 - Mr. Jean-Baptiste INGOLI BOLAMBA, Secrétaire Permanent a.i. du Comité interministériel des Droits de l'Homme;
 - Ms. Thérèse Tshibola-tshia-Kadiebue, Ministre Conseiller à la Mission permanente;
 - Mr. François ASSUMANI WAKILONGO, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministère des Droits Humains;
 - Mr. Eric ILUNGA M'VIDIE, Chargé d'Etudes et des questions politiques et électorales, Ministère des droits humains;
 - Mr. Serge NDAIE, Premier Conseiller à la Mission permanente;
 - Mr. Dodie NKULU, Conseiller au Ministère des droits humains.
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