

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
(FIRST BATCH)

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What steps is the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo taking to ensure that its security forces, including the police, operate with respect to human rights and in compliance with relevant international law?
- What plans does the Government have to undertake a comprehensive review to ensure that the rights and roles of NGOs and human rights defenders are not restricted or impeded?
- What plans does the Government have to implement a legal framework clearly defining crimes of trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation, forced labour or other purposes, and ensuring that the perpetrators are held accountable in accordance with the Palermo Protocol?
- What is the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo doing to ensure that journalists, political opposition and human rights defenders are adequately protected, and that reported crimes are duly investigated by police and prosecutors?
- What steps is the Government taking to strengthen the judicial system and ensure its independence, including the capacity of law enforcement to bring the perpetrators of appalling crimes, committed against the wider population, to justice?

PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF's

- Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
- Has the State-under-review established a dedicated 'national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up' (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, *inter alia*, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- As many as 500 people were killed in Yumbi in western DRC in mid-December. What was the cause of this violence and what actions is the DRC government taking to hold accountable those who were responsible?
- What will the government do to address these grievances and promote reconciliation?
- What is the government doing to reform the judiciary, promote judicial independence and impartiality, and hold corrupt judges accountable?
- The United States is closely following the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the March 2017 murders of UN experts Michael Sharp and Zaida Catalan. What is the DRC government doing to arrest those still at-large who may have been involved in the murders?
- What is the government doing to hold people accountable for abuses and violations of human rights, including those in the government, senior members of security forces, and in armed groups?
- What will the new government do to reform the security services and prevent human rights violations by its members?
- What is the new government's plan to strengthen the capacity and resources of labor and criminal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute the worst forms of child labor and increase penalties for such labor violations?
- What will the government do to address children subjected to physical violence and/or detention for their alleged association with armed groups, and ensure that the Congolese military (FARDC) does not support non-state armed groups that perpetuate the worst forms of child labor, including child soldiering?
- What is the government doing to respect and promote the rights to freedom of religion or belief, expression, and peaceful assembly and association? How is the government promoting religious tolerance and working with the Muslim community for equal privileges as larger religious groups?
- The constitution prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities and provides specific government protection for them. What will the government do to enforce these provisions effectively, and ensure that persons with disabilities obtain equal access to education, employment, and other government services?
- What steps is the government taking to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons from violence and serious forms of discrimination?
- What steps is the new government taking to guarantee individuals' rights to free expression and free assembly online and offline?

SWITZERLAND

- La Suisse salue la mise en place de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme. Quelles sont les priorités pour la mise en œuvre de son mandat et quels moyens budgétaires lui seront accordés pour garantir son fonctionnement effectif ?
- La Suisse salue les mesures prises par le gouvernement afin de promouvoir les droits et la participation des femmes dans les processus politiques. Cependant, des inégalités notables persistent dans plusieurs domaines, notamment les violences basées sur le genre. Quelles sont les mesures prises ou envisagées par le gouvernement afin de prévenir la violence domestique et celle basée sur le genre ainsi que pour garantir l'assistance aux victimes ?

SWEDEN

- What progress has been made by Congolese authorities in terms of implementing recommendations by the UN Human rights Council's International Team of Experts on the Kasai region (July 2018)?
- How will DRC follow up on recommendations from OHCHR regarding the potential crimes against humanity in Yumbi territory in December 2018?
- What progress has been made by Congolese authorities in terms of initiating proceedings against alleged perpetrators for their involvement in grave human rights violations following the 10 December 2016 events?
- What progress has been made by Congolese authorities in terms of prosecuting perpetrators of human rights violations committed between 31 December 2017 and 21 January 2018 as per recommendations by the Government's Joint Commission of Enquiry whose conclusions were referred to the Ministry of Justice in March 2018 and again in June 2018?
- What progress has been made by Congolese authorities in terms of President Tshisekedi's promise to command the Minister of Justice to take all necessary measures within the law towards a conditional release of all individuals detained for "opinion offences" - notably during the protests held before the elections?