



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the
**31st Session of the UPR working group -
Review of the Republic of Congo**

Geneva, 14 November 2018

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks to the Republic of Congo for the report, presentation and its commitment to the UPR process.

We would like to recommend the Republic of Congo the following:

- Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and introduce a bill on the abolition of the death penalty in Congo to the National Assembly and pursue awareness raising activities among the Congolese population.

We commend Congo that its Government, in August 2018, adopted a bill to reorganize the National Commission on Human Rights, which may result significantly for the consolidation of the national system for the protection of human rights, missing in the recent years

Slovenia welcomes that during its second UPR, the Republic of Congo accepted recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.

Slovenia at the same time regrets Congolese unwillingness to implement a number of recommendations that it had accepted during its second review, like the activities regarding the elimination of violence against women, as well as respect for gender equity, children's rights and vulnerable groups (indigenous peoples, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities), LGBTI and others, who were subject to dozens of recommendations, but have not been made significant progress yet.

Thank you