



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the

33rd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Geneva, 7 May 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following **recommendations**:

- to 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 International Criminal Court;
- to 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.

We would like to note the ratifications of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. With regard to Slovenia's recommendation to the DRC in the 2nd UPR cycle on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child we note the progress made with regard to birth registration, free primary school education and access to health-care services.

However, Slovenia is seriously concerned about the reports on serious human rights violations in the country, in particular in regions affected by inter-communal clashes and armed conflict, and in relation to elections. We deplore deliberate attacks on civilians in eastern part of the country and in Kasai regions that resulted in numerous killed and injured, and atrocities committed by defence and security forces and armed groups, including mutilation, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions. We also deplore the increasing of restrictions on civil liberties, intimidation of and violence against political opposition, journalists and civil society activists in the run-up of the elections of December 2018.

We would like to urge the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a member of the Human Rights Council, to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you!