**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF RWANDA**

**GENEVA**

**Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Second cycle: 14th session / CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Geneva, 22/10/2012**

***Statement by H.E. Mrs. Soline NYIRAHABIMANA,***

***Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Rwanda,***

***Head of the delegation of Rwanda***

**Mme President,**

The delegation of Rwanda would like to extend a very warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of the Czech Republic headed by Mr. Vladimir Galuska, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to thank him for the presentation for the UPR National report of the Czech Republic.

The Rwandan delegation commends the extensive consultation made during the preparation of the presented National report of the Czech Republic.

My delegation congratulates the Czech Republic for the progress made in successfully implementing many of the recommendations formulated during the first cycle of the UPR process and *encourages the Czech Government to implement the remaining recommendations*.

While recognizing the various challenges and constraints hindering the efforts of the Czech Republic to fully realize her goals in the field of human rights for the benefit of her citizens, the delegation of Rwanda recommends *to consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, as well the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.*

Rwandan delegation further recommends *establishing a fully dedicated human rights institution in full accordance with the Paris Principle*. It will compliment the work of the existing Ombudsman and respond to the latter’s limitations in the field of promotion and protection of human rights.

In conclusion, my delegation thanks the Czech Government for its positive engagement in the HRC mechanisms, including the open invitation by the Head of delegation to the mandate holders. We wish the Czech Government, to translate into reality the Action Plan/Strategies/initiatives to improve the human rights situation in the Czech Republic.

**I thank you.**