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*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in
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Universal Periodic Review – 17th Cycle – Republic of Congo

30 October 2013

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Congo to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and commends the submission of its comprehensive national report to UPR.

My delegation takes note with appreciation of improvements on issues raised on the occasion of Congo's last review, such as: the implementation of the National Gender Plan of Action, the enactment of specific legislation on the rights of children (Act No. 4-2010), advances on the promotion of the right to health, as well as the progressive accomplishment of human rights goals laid down in this Council's Resolution 9/12.

However, the current local situation in relation to the rights of women still remains a reason for concern. The persistence of a disproportionately high number of women with HIV/AIDS and the lack of awareness of their rights, especially by those living in rural or remote areas, need to be duly addressed.

In a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, Brazil wishes to make the following recommendations:

(i) that the Republic of Congo step up its efforts geared at completing its accession to CEDAW-OP;

(ii) that the Republic of Congo continue to promote the rights of women, with a focus on obtaining demonstrable results as regards, in particular, access to health services and to the labor market.

I thank you, Mr. President