

**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Seventeenth Session**

**Review of Congo**

**Statement by  
Ambassador Wafaa Bassim  
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations  
and other international organizations in Geneva**

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**(Geneva, 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2013)**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of Congo and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today. We wish to thank the delegation ~~of Congo~~ for the informative and comprehensive report that ~~the delegation~~ has presented, which demonstrates its desire to interact with the international human rights system and reflects its legacy in democratic practice.

We have examined with interest what was mentioned in the report since the first UPR cycle, and we welcome the acceleration by the government of Congo to implement effectively the existing legislation and programmes, and the numerous interventions introduced lately. We note the challenges faced by Congo outlined in its national report, and the far-reaching programmes of structural reforms and improvement of governance which the government has been adopting, with a view to consolidating peace and stimulating economic and social development.

Finally Mr. President, in a positive spirit of cooperation and dialogue, our delegation wishes to recommend the following recommendations to the Government of Congo, hoping that it will consider adopting them:

1. To continue its current efforts to reinforce the mandate and capacities of the National Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission, particularly in the field of promotion and protection of women's rights.
2. To pursue efforts to provide educational opportunities for girls and boys with disabilities and to strengthen adult literacy programmes, especially for women in rural areas.
3. To continue its efforts to achieve equal access for women to the labor market, particularly through vocational training programmes.
4. To keep pursuing its efforts to promote and facilitate school enrolment and attendance, especially among children from poor families.

I thank you.