

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



PERMANENT MISSION OF RWANDA
GENEVA

Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review of Congo, 30th October 2013

Statement by: Rwanda Delegation

Thank you Mr President,

My delegation welcomes the distinguished delegation of Congo Headed by H.E. Mr. Bienvenu Okiemy, Minister of Communication and Relations with Parliament, Government Spokesman, to the Second Cycle of the UPR and congratulates them for the presentation of their national report.

We commend Congo for the improvement of the normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

We applaud Congo for enacting the law

prohibiting the female genital mutilation.

We note with satisfaction that the economic situation of households has improved and the unemployment rate has fallen considerably.

Rwanda welcomes the measures taken by the Government of Congo to address trafficking in persons, in particular children and women.

Rwanda would like to recommend Congo to:

1. Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty,
2. Speed up the procedure under way for accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,
3. We take note that women make up 8.6% of members of parliament and 13% of the government. However, we recommend the government of Congo increase women's participation in political and public life.

I thank you