

UPRI7/Congo

Statement by Slovakia

30 October 2013

19

Mr President,

Slovakia would like to thank the delegation of Congo for the comprehensive summary of the human rights situation in their country.

We welcome strengthening the protection of children's rights in Congo following the first UPR cycle by becoming a State party to the two substantive Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and encourage the Government of Congo to their full and effective implementation at national level.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms is essential to further develop human rights standards. We invite the Government of Congo to intensify dialogue with UN treaty bodies and to ensure proper follow-up to their recommendations. With respect to the cooperation with the Human Rights Council Special Procedures we encourage Congo to consider extending a standing invitation to all HRC Special Procedures.

While commending achievements in the field of education, Slovakia remains concerned in particular by structural restrictions faced by girls and young women to quality education and by lower literacy rate of women. **We recommend the Government of Congo to adopt necessary practical measures to ensure equal access of girls to education at all levels and to step up efforts to decrease literacy rate of women.**

Thank you.

MARTIN KHOSÉ NA