



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
17<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Congo - 30 October 2013**

Mr President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Congo to the UPR Working Group led by ..... We thank them for the presentation this morning.

My delegation has taken note of the developments in Congo in the last four years, as reflected in its national report, which has been produced through a consultative and participatory process.

We welcome Congo's accession to the two Optional Protocols to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, as well as its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

We appreciate efforts by the government to promote access to health, including the promulgation of laws and regulations to combat HIV/AIDS and efforts to improve healthcare for women and children.

Sri Lanka commends the priority placed by the government on access to education for all children. We note that increased public expenditure in the education sector is yielding positive results.

Mr. President, my delegation wishes to make the following recommendations to Congo:

1. Strengthen measures to reduce unemployment and underemployment of youth;
2. Continue efforts to promote the enrolment of girls in all levels of education.

In concluding, we wish Congo success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.