

18



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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UPR of DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Democratic Republic of Congo to the UPR Working group and thanks them for their presentation today.

Slovenia welcomes the adoption of the 2012 Plan of Action to Combat the recruitment and use of Children, and other Grave Violations of the Rights of the Child by the Armed Forces and Security Forces of the DR Congo.

We further note with appreciation the efforts taken by the DR Congo to combat sexual violence in conflict as recommended by Slovenia in the first UPR cycle. However, we remain concerned by the reports of prevalence of the sexual gender-based violence across the country, and the increase of the number of cases in the east of the country.

Slovenia would like to **recommend** to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to take all the preventive measures to ensure the implementation of the Plan of Action, including provision on birth registration (also late birth registration) free of charge, effective implementation of the free and compulsory primary education policy and access to basic health-care services.

Following the recommendation of the UNHCR and other similar recommendations, we would also like to **recommend** that the Government take adequate measures to reduce and eradicate incidents of sexual gender-based violence committed by armed elements and establish and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

Thank you.