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## Statement delivered by South Africa

### 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### Review of DRC

29 April 2014

Mr President, South Africa welcomes the delegation of the DRC to this UPR Session and the informative presentation of its National Report which highlights human rights implementation, best practices and challenges in the country.

We commend the positive developments that have taken place in the DRC, in particular the significant efforts to advance human rights, including through the introduction of new policies and legislative changes, the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, and the "Revolution of Modernity" programme, and encourage its effective implementation. We also take note of the States request for technical assistance and capacity building.

South Africa encourages the DRC to continue at all efforts towards the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights in the country and would like to pose the following recommendations:

- (1) To increase allocations for the implementation of the Government's poverty reduction strategy and ensure that international development aid is utilized for the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living; and
- (2) To ensure adequate funding for education to increase the number of schools and teachers, improve the quality of teaching and school infrastructure and ensure de facto equal access of girls to all levels of education; and
- (3) To ensure implementation of new measures to improve business and investment climate in the country.

Finally, South Africa assures the DRC of the full support and solidarity of South Africa and we are committed to work with the country to ensure that peace and security, human rights and democracy remain the fundamental pillars of our shared developmental initiatives.

and the  
Action Plan  
on children  
to combat the  
recruitment of  
the use  
of children  
in armed  
conflict