**Universal Periodic Review 19 – DRC**

**Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Netherlands welcomes the peace building process in the DRC, which started with the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the Region on February 24th 2013. It provides a good base to implement the rule of law nationwide and prosecute those who committed crimes against humanity and other international crimes in the past years.

However, we remain concerned about the high rate of sexual and gender based violence in the DRC. Being a grave violation of human rights, it needs to be addressed with urgency. We stand ready to continue assisting the DRC in its fight against this human rights violation and are glad to second an expert to lead the MONUSCO Sexual Violence Unit.

Mr. President,

the Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends the DRC:

1. To adopt legislation in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to have a thorough discussion in Parliament on the establishment of mixed chambers, in order to guarantee fair trials for those who committed crimes against humanity.
2. To establish a national agency aimed at preventing sexual and gender based violence and at ensuring access to justice for these victims.

I thank you.