

Thank you Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the comprehensive statement presented.

We welcome the efforts made by the government to implement the recommendations received in the first cycle of the UPR, despite the difficulties facing the country.

We noted with appreciation the number of ordinary and organizational acts that have been promulgated since 2009 to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the country, including the Act of July 2011 criminalizing torture and in this regard **we recommend for the Government of DRC to establish a training program for penitentiary, judicial and security personnel to ensure its consistent application.**

We also commend the efforts made to ensure that the right to education is effective and non-discriminatory, including the free and compulsory primary education policy. However concerns still remain about its insufficient implementation due to different constraints facing the government, and in this regard, **we recommend that the Government continue allocating adequate funding for education to increase the number of schools and teachers, improve the quality of teaching and school infrastructure and ensure equal access of girls to all levels of education.**

Thank you.
