



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
to United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

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**19<sup>th</sup> Session of the WG on UPR  
UPR of DRC**

**Statement  
of  
Mr. Dusko Uzunovski  
Minister Counselor  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.**

*Geneva, April 29, 2014*

Thank you Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia welcomes the delegation of DR Congo and thanks for the presentation of their national report.

We express concern regarding the situation with human rights in the country, in particular the rights of women and children, and we note the need for concrete steps to break gender-role stereotypes.

Extremely ~~intimidating~~ <sup>frustrating</sup> are the ~~statistical data~~ <sup>figures</sup> which ~~show~~ <sup>illustrate</sup> that every year, more than 400,000 women are victims of sexual violence in the country, of which one third are children. The perpetrators are usually members of armed forces and military groups. We would appreciate information about the activities undertaken by the Government to combat sexual violence, and measures taken to protect women victims of rape, and measures to sanction the perpetrators.

Despite the Government efforts to decrease the number of child soldiers, the data shows that children continued to be recruited, arrested and detained. Please inform what measures are taken to raise awareness about the demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers?

- We appreciate that there is a moratorium on death penalty, but we recommend the Government to amend the Criminal Code as to abolish the death penalty.
- We recommend that the Government undertake activities to eliminate stereotypes, identifying the obstacles that hindered woman from taking up their rightful place in society.
- We also recommend the Government to double its effort in fight against sexual violence ~~on~~ <sup>amongst</sup> women and girls;
- Finally, the Republic of Macedonia recommends the Government to fully cooperate with the HRC Independent Expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of ~~the~~ Congo.

Thank you Mr. President.