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**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session**  
**Universal Periodic Review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**  
**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends the DRC armed forces' progress in ending the recruitment of child soldiers. But we remain concerned about the prevalence of child labour, particularly in illegal mines. **Australia recommends that the DRC take all measures to eliminate child labour and illegal mining.**

Australia remains alarmed by the scale of sexual and gender based violence in the DRC and by the very low number of convictions. **Australia recommends that all police and military receive gender-sensitive human rights education and that all perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence be tried, regardless of rank.**

Australia is concerned that since the DRC ratified the Convention against Torture only twelve convictions have been recorded. **Australia recommends that all perpetrators of torture be tried, regardless of rank.**

Australia welcomes the DRC's 11 year moratorium on executions, but **recommends that the DRC remove the death penalty from its criminal statutes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Recalling Australia's recommendation from the DRC's last Review, we again **recommend that the DRC implement the Rome Statute into domestic law.**

Speaker: Ms Lauren Stasinowsky