

Erling Hoem  
5

**UPR DR Congo. Norwegian statement**

Mr. President,

We thank the DRC delegation for presenting <sup>the</sup> <sup>of their</sup> its report.

Important and welcome actions have been taken by the DRC Government in response to the recommendations given at the first UPR. Yet demanding challenges remain, especially with regard to the implementation of adopted policy measures.

It is important that legislation for the protection of Human Rights Defenders, pending since 2012, be tabled in the National Assembly.

Women are poorly represented in political bodies and in leadership positions. Norway **recommends** revising the election law to guarantee a 30 % representation of women on electoral lists as this would be a positive step towards equity. We also **recommend** revising the Family Law to ensure gender equality

Sexual and gender based violence remains a serious human rights violation in the DRC. Norway **recommends** the DRC Government to strictly enforce the 2006 law on sexual violence and its zero tolerance policy.

The Regional Framework for Peace, Security and Cooperation of February 2013 enhance the prospects for a peaceful development in the DRC. We encourage the DRC Government to seize this opportunity to promote further progress in the field of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.