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UPR19 - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

While acknowledging complex security challenges the country faces, we suggest the Government strengthen its efforts in the following areas:

First, while welcoming the ratification of the OP-CAT, we **recommend** that the Government implement Article 3 of the Protocol and immediately establish an independent national mechanism for the prevention of torture with the mandate to visit all places of detention.

Second, we **recommend** implementing the July 2013 recommendations of the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/COD/CO/6-7) focusing on the recommendations under paragraph 10 and, *inter alia*, investigate violations of women's rights committed by Congolese security forces and armed groups and ensure access to justice for all women affected by sexual violence during the conflict.

Third, we **recommend** that the Government implement recommendations of 2011 international election observation missions with special emphasis on the enhancement of equal participation of women in political life.

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** a speedy adoption of the law on protection of human rights defenders by the Parliament and its immediate and effective implementation.