

**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Nineteenth Session**

**Review of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Statement by  
Ambassador Dr. Walid M. Abdelnasser  
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United  
Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

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**(Geneva, 29 April 2014)**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today. Egypt notes the thoroughness of the consultations the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo conducted in preparation for its national report, which demonstrates its desire to interact with the international human rights system and reflects its legacy in democratic practice.

We positively note that the Democratic Republic of Congo has undertaken a number of actions to facilitate the access of Congolese citizens to justice and to a fair trial, including the rehabilitation or progressive construction of buildings housing courts and prosecution services in the capital Kinshasa and the provinces. In addition, we commend the significant efforts the authorities had made to advance human rights, including through the introduction of new policies and legislative changes. Moreover, we welcome the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission by Organizational Act No. 13/011 of 21 March 2013.

In that vein, Egypt in a spirit of positive dialogue, would like to suggest the following recommendations for the Democratic Republic of Congo, hoping that it will consider adopting them:

- 1- To ensure the effective implementation of the national strategy to combat maternal and infant mortality; and to increase access for women and girls to basic health-care services.
- 2- To continue the current efforts to finalize the process of adoption of a social security code and the establishment of a sustainable social security system.
- 3- To ensure the elimination of the sale and trafficking of children for sexual exploitation.
- 4- To continue current efforts to eliminate the forced labor of children in mines.
- 5- To consider adopting legal provisions to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory for all children without discrimination.

I thank you Mr. President.