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Kaarina Aaras
First Secretary



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

19th Session of the UPR working group

Questions and recommendations by Finland to Democratic Republic of Congo

29th April 2014

Mr. President,

Finland thanks the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its UPR report and commends the government for arranging consultations, also with NGOs, on the follow-up on the recommendations from the previous review.

We welcome that the Government is committed to facilitating the access to justice of individuals and fighting impunity.

Could you give us an update, including a time-table, on the legislative process with respect to the proposal to establish a **Specialized Mixed Chambers within the national judicial system**? How will the civil society be able to contribute to the process?

Finland recommends DRC to establish - with the involvement of the Congolese civil society and the support of the international community in the process - an independent and impartial Specialized Mixed Chambers within the national judicial system to address crimes committed under international law and other serious human rights violations.

We further recommend national legislation implementing the Rome statute of the ICC.

Thank you.