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Statement by the Delegation of Indonesia
at the 19th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Consideration of the National Report of Democratic Republic of the Congo
Geneva, 29 April 2014

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to welcome the delegation of the DRC and thank them for their report. We also appreciate the comprehensive presentation of their update on the current efforts by the Government in improving the situation of human rights on the grounds.

Indonesia take notes the efforts by the Government of the DRC in implementing the accepted recommendations from their first cycle UPR. We particularly welcome a series of ratification and accession by the Government to various international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocols. We also welcome the establishment of various national institutions, i.e. the Independent National Electoral Commission and the National Agency to Combat Violence against Women and Girls.

Mr. President,

We understand the multi-dimensional difficulties faced by the Government in promoting and protecting human rights in the DRC, mainly linked to the recurrence of armed conflicts. As a result, most of the Government's resources are allocated to the imperative need to bring peace to the country. At the same time, we strongly believe that efforts to promote and protect human rights can be done in parallel with the efforts to create long-lasting peace in the country.

We take note with appreciation the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission on March 2013. In this regard, **we recommend the Government of the DRC to speed up its efforts to ensure the functioning of the Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles on the National Human Rights Institutions.**

Mr. President,

We are of the view that addressing sexual and gender-based violence should be considered at the priority. In this regard, we welcome numerous steps that had been taken by the Government to eliminate violence against women and children, including by establishing national, provincial and local joint technical coordination committees to combat sexual violence. **We therefore recommend the Government of the DRC to continue its efforts in addressing this issue, in particular by developing effective mechanism to prevent violence against women and girls.**

In conclusion Mr. President, Indonesia wishes the People and Government of the DRC all the best in their ongoing and future endeavors in the promotion and protection of human rights in their country.

I thank you.