



PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council UPR WORKING GROUP 19th SESSION Democratic Republic of the Congo

Thank you, Mr. President.

The State of Israel values the Democratic Republic of the Congo's commitment to improving the human rights situation in the country, as well as the significant efforts made to advance human rights, including through the introduction of new policies and legislative changes. However, numerous human rights violations continue to occur, including sexual violence, summary executions, arbitrary arrests, torture and inhumane treatment of civilians.

Israel welcomes the signing of peace declarations and considers these an important step towards peace and stability, yet emphasizes that they do not settle the issue of other armed rebel groups in the region. Israel hopes that the DRC Government will continue to oppose the ongoing violence perpetrated by other rebels against the country's civilian population.

Israel wishes to underline the importance of establishing and strengthening better accountability mechanisms and wishes to **recommend** the DRC to investigate, prosecute, and takes all adequate measures to reduce and eradicate incidents of sexual gender-based violence committed by armed elements.

In line with observations made by the CEDAW and the CESCR, Israel would furthermore **recommend** the Democratic Republic of the Congo to withdraw the discriminatory provisions contained in their Family Code and adopt the draft Law on Gender Equality.

In addition, we **recommend** the DRC adopts provisions prohibiting polygamy, early marriage, female genital mutilation and levirate.

Thank you.