

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia
19th session of the UPR
Review of Democratic Republic of Congo**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Democratic Republic of Congo and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and its presentation today.

My delegation notes the steps taken by DRC to improve the human rights situation in the country. We particularly welcome the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in March of 2013 and adoption of the Plan of Action to combat the recruitment and use of children by the armed forces. However, we remain concerned at the numerous reports of violence against women and children. We encourage DRC to continue its efforts to bring its national policies and legislation in line with the relevant obligations of CEDAW convention and other relevant international commitments.

In addition Latvia would like to offer to Democratic Republic of Congo the following recommendations:

First, to align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute including by incorporating the provisions enabling cooperation with the Court.

Second, to strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests and eventually consider extending a standing invitation to all the special procedures mandates holders.

Thank you, Mr. President.