

Check against delivery

19th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (28 April-9 May 2014)

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania
at the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
29 April 2014**

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thanks for the informative National Report.

Lithuania remains concerned about the magnitude and the brutality of rape in the DRC and that sexual violence is used as a weapon of war by all parties involved in the conflict. We welcome steps undertaken by the DRC to combat sexual violence, in particular the National Strategy against gender-based violence as well as the recent Joint Communiqué between the Government and the United Nations on the Fight against Sexual Violence in Conflict. We further recommend to the DRC in line with UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820: 1) to develop effective mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, 2) to increase medical, judicial, psychological and socioeconomic support to victims of sexual violence, 3) to strengthen the capacities of judicial institutions in order to bring those responsible of sexual violence to justice and 4) to ensure access to justice and full reparation for victims and survivors.

The reported recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups remains also of great concern. In this regard, we recommend to the DRC 1) to take immediate measures in order to comply fully with the OP-CRC-AC; and 2) to implement the Action Plan to end the recruitment and use of children, signed with the UN in 2012.

Lastly, we note with concern that the Government's commitment undertaken during the first UPR to abolish the death penalty has not been implemented. In this regard, we recommend to the DRC: to intensify its efforts to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition and in the meantime to immediately remove all provisions in national law which are in breach of international human rights law.

I thank you.