

**Statement by India during Interactive Dialogue at 4th UPR of Congo during the 45th Session of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group (22 January-2 February 2024) delivered by Shri K.S.Mohammed Hussain, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, Geneva on 30 January 2024**

Mr. President,

1. India thanks the delegation of the Republic of Congo for the presentation of its National Report.

2. India appreciates Congo’s efforts to strengthen promotion and protection of human rights at the national level, including enactment of law for protection of personal data and laws on combating violence against women, cybercrime, corruption, and trafficking in persons. We take note of ratification of various international human instruments to further strengthen rights of women, children, stateless persons and various ILO Conventions since its third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. India commends Congo for its cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

3. In the spirit of constructive dialogue, India recommends the following:

1. Continue to strengthen domestic framework to protect rights of women and girls;
2. Further increase its efforts to ensure enrolment and retention of girls in school;
3. Step up its efforts to increase access to health care, in particular to address maternal mortality and morbidity.

4. We wish the delegation of the Republic of Congo all success in its review.

Thank you Mr. President.