

**THE 45TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

**KENYA’S STATEMENT ON THE CONGO**

**Thank you. Mr. President,**

Kenya congratulates the distinguished high-level delegation of the Republic of Congo to this 4th Cycle of UPR process.

We commend the positive efforts undertaken in the field’s human rights, since its last cycle, notably the ratification of the Conventions relating to Status of Statelessness of persons and the Reduction of Statelessness and enacting legislation on combatting violence against women, combatting trafficking in persons and rights of asylum and refugees in the country.

Equally we urge the Congo to continue its cooperation and dialogue with Civil Society Organizations on human rights.

**In a constructive spirit, Kenya makes the following 3 recommendations for consideration:**

1. Strengthen the independence and the effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles.
2. Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls through timely investigation and prosecution of perpetrators.
3. Take the necessary steps to expand investment in the health sector especially in rural areas.

We wish the delegation of the Republic of Congo a very successful UPR process.

**I thank you.**