**Universal Periodic Review 33 – The Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 7 May 2019**

Mr President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands commends the DRC on the recent steps taken to enlarge the democratic space of Congolese citizens, as demonstrated, amongst other things, by the release of political prisoners.

We welcome the commitments made by the President to guarantee the human rights of all. The Netherlands also appreciates tangible efforts to combat sexual violence since the last UPR cycle.

However, the Netherlands remains concerned about the large scale occurrence of *domestic* violence in the DRC, for which so far no legal framework has been created.

The Netherlands is also concerned about the lack of effectiveness in ending the impunity that perpetuates human rights violations. Concrete steps must be taken to bring perpetrators to justice, especially in Eastern DRC.

The Netherlands therefore **recommends** the Democratic Republic of Congo:

1. To adopt and implement, in line with SDG 5, legislation that addresses domestic violence and to take concrete steps to end domestic violence and marital rape.
2. To strengthen, in line with SDG 16, efforts to end the cycle of impunity and ensure the prosecution of all suspected perpetrators of human rights violations, especially in Eastern DRC and the Kasais.

The Netherlands wishes the Democratic Republic of the Congo every success with the implementation of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Mr President.