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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

### Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\*

Congo

Addendum

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review**

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Republic of the Congo is pleased to have completed the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, on 30 January 2024, and remains convinced that the mechanism is essential for improving the human rights situation in the world.
2. The Congo reaffirms its commitment and its willingness to engage in a frank and constructive manner with the international community in the interests of universal respect for human rights.
3. The Government of the Congo thanks the State delegations for their questions and recommendations, which demonstrate their commitment to helping to improve the situation of human rights in the Congo.
4. A total of 244 recommendations were made to the Republic of the Congo.
5. Having carefully considered these recommendations, with the active participation of various ministerial departments, the Congo accepts 232 of the recommendations made and takes note of 12 of them.
6. The present addendum explains the position of the Congo, including on the 12 recommendations of which it took note.
7. The accepted recommendations are as follows:

128.1; 128.2; 128.3; 128.4; 128.5; 128.6; 128.7; 128.8; 128.9; 128.10; 128.11; 128.12; 128.13; 128.14; 128.15; 128.16; 128.17; 128.18; 128.19; 128.20; 128.21; 128.22; 128.23; 128.24; 128.25; 128.26; 128.27; 128.28; 128.29; 128.30; 128.31; 128.32; 128.33; 128.34; 128.35; 128.36; 128.37; 128.38; 128.39; 128.40; 128.41; 128.42; 128.43; 128.44; 128.45; 128.46; 128.47; 128.48; 128.49; 128.50; 128.51; 128.52; 128.53; 128.54; 128.55; 128.56; 128.57; 128.58; 128.59; 128.60; 128.61; 128.62; 128.63; 128.64; 128.65; 128.66; 128.67; 128.68; 128.69; 128.70; 128.71; 128.72; 128.73; 128.74; 128.75; 128.76; 128.77; 128.78; 128.79; 128.80; 128.81; 128.82; 128.83; 128.84; 128.85; 128.86; 128.87; 128.88; 128.89; 128.90; 128.93; 128.94; 128.96; 128.97; 128.98; 128.99; 128.100; 128.101; 128.102; 128.103; 128.104; 128.105; 128.106; 128.107; 128.108; 128.109; 128.110; 128.111; 128.112; 128.113; 128.114; 128.115; 128.116; 128.117; 128.118; 128.119; 128.120; 128.121; 128.122; 128.123; 128.124; 128.125; 128.126; 128.127; 128.128; 128.129; 128.130; 128.131; 128.132; 128.133; 128.134; 128.135; 128.136; 128.137; 128.138; 128.139; 128.140; 128.141; 128.142; 128.143; 128.144; 128.145; 128.146; 128.147; 128.148; 128.149; 128.150; 128.151; 128.152; 128.153; 128.154; 128.155; 128.156; 128.157; 128.158; 128.159; 128.160; 128.161; 128.162; 128.163; 128.164; 128.165; 128.166; 128.167; 128.168; 128.169; 128.170; 128.171; 128.172; 128.173; 128.174; 128.175; 128.176; 128.177; 128.178; 128.179; 128.180; 128.181; 128.182; 128.183; 128.184; 128.185; 128.186; 128.187; 128.188; 128.189; 128.190; 128.191; 128.192; 128.193; 128.194; 128.195; 128.196; 128.197; 128.198; 128.199; 128.200; 128.201; 128.202; 128.203; 128.204; 128.205; 128.206; 128.207; 128.211; 128.212; 128.213; 128.214; 128.215; 128.216; 128.217; 128.218; 128.219; 128.220; 128.221; 128.222; 128.223; 128.224; 128.225; 128.226; 128.227; 128.228; 128.229; 128.230; 128.231; 128.232; 128.233; 128.234; 128.235; 128.236; 128.243; 128.244.

8. With regard to recommendation 128.243, the Republic of the Congo has already adopted a specific law on asylum-seekers, namely, Act No. 41-2021 of 29 September 2021 on the right of asylum and the status of refugees.
9. With regard to the recommendations it has taken note of, the position of the Republic of the Congo is as follows:

**Recommendations 128.91 and 128.92:** Members of non-governmental and civil society human rights organizations in the Republic of the Congo carry out their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights normally and freely, without pressure or intimidation. They do not face reprisals or harassment from government authorities. However, they may be prosecuted for committing ordinary offences.

**Recommendation 128.95:** Freedom of the press in the Republic of the Congo is enshrined in the Constitution of 25 October 2015. Article 25 of the Constitution decriminalizes press offences as follows: "Every citizen has the right to freely express and disseminate their opinion in words, writing, images or by any other means of communication.

Freedom of information and communication is guaranteed and is exercised in keeping with the Constitution.

Censorship is prohibited.

Access to sources of information is free and protected under the conditions determined by law.”

The Republic of the Congo has a healthy media environment. The practice of information and communication professions is recognized. The Republic of the Congo has had a code of ethics and professional conduct for journalists since 2018. The preamble to this code states that: “the right to information, as well as freedom of expression and criticism, are fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of 25 October 2015.”

To this date, no offences have been committed against journalists in the Republic of the Congo.

**Recommendations 128.208, 128.209 and 128.210:** No study has demonstrated that female genital mutilation is practised in the Republic of the Congo. Early marriage is not permitted under any regulations. In the Republic of the Congo, mayors do not authorize the marriage of underage girls.

**Recommendations 128.237; 128.238; 128.239; 128.240; 128.241; 128.242:** The Constitution of 25 January 2015 enshrines the equality of all citizens before the law. There is no legislative or regulatory provision that discriminates against persons because of their sexual orientation. Persons identifying as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community do not have specific rights; they are treated in the same way as all other Congolese citizens. They are regularly involved in all sex education activities and in the drafting of the National Strategic Plan to combat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (2018–2022), the implementing regulations for the Act on the protection of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and the Action Plan to improve the protection of women living with HIV/AIDS (2017–2021).

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