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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.[1] It is a summary of 47 stakeholders' submissions[2] for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) noted that it had been provided with a building and that its budget had increased slightly. It has provincial branch offices in every provincial capital throughout the Republic. The new membership of CNDH (for its second term) was approved by presidential order on 27 January 2023. CNDH recommended that the DRC: (i) increase the annual budgetary resources of CNDH as well as the monthly disbursement rates, in accordance with its needs, in order to facilitate the discharge of its mandate and the performance of its functions; and (ii) take any administrative measure necessary to grant CNDH independent premises for its headquarters and its provincial branch offices.[3]

3. CNDH stated that, despite the promulgation on 16 November 2022 of Act No. 23/030 of 15 July 2022 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples and the adoption of a certain number of measures for the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples, there had still been no significant improvement in the situation of that minority group in terms of effective participation in the conduct of public affairs, for example, or access to justice at the local level, access to land and land reform and the administration of natural resources, or children's very low rates of access to education, health and information. It recommended that the DRC ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and adopt legislative or other measures to implement it.[4]

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4. CNDH also recommended ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, of 20 December 2006, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.[5]

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations[6] and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

5. Joint submission 11 (JS) 11 and Initiatives pour la paix et les droits humains (iPeace) recommended that the DRC ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[7] JS 22 recommended ratification of the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).[8]

6. JS 7 recommended that the DRC extend a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedure mandate holders and prioritise official visits by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.[9]

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

7. JS 3 and JS 23 stressed that the Digital Code of 2023, among other issues, criminalises the propagation of speech that is likely to lead to or encourage hateful, tribal behaviour and behaviour that is contrary to morals and patriotic values. Legislative responses that are broad and vague are contrary to international human rights standards and the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. The extension of cybercrime legislation to cover "cyber-enabled" crimes is unnecessary and risky for human rights. They recommended that the government actively narrow the range of issues covered under cybercrime in accordance with human rights standards.[10]

8. Groupe d'Action pour les Droits de la Femme (GADF) and JS 25 deplored that there were no specific laws to protect victims of domestic or family violence, nor were there institutional frameworks or state bodies, such as shelters or reception centers to support the victims and safeguard them from their abusers. They recommended adopting a specific law protecting victims of domestic violence, set up a mechanism for the economic and social reintegration and a psychological, legal and judicial support mechanism for victims and survivors of gender-based violence.[11]

9. End Corporal Punishment (ECP) deplored that no legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children has been adopted since the last review. It recommended to repeal the Article 326(4) of the Family Code.[12]

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

10. Alliance pour l'Universalité des Droits Fondamentaux (AUDF) noted that CNDH still had few staff and that its budget had not been increased. Across the country, 306 employees were awaiting clarification concerning the freeze on recruitment to CNDH. AUDF recommended that the DRC review the CNDH budget line from September 2024 and lift the freeze on recruitment, as well as increase the number of staff throughout the Republic.[13]

11. JS 4 and JS 19 recommended that the DRC create a national mechanism for the prevention of torture.[14]

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

12. JS 24 highlighted the economic marginalization, discrimination and systematic prejudice suffered by Twas at the hands of Bantu populations. Twas were treated as second-class citizens, if not as "subhuman". Bantu villagers often prevented Twas from drawing water from the same source or eating at the same table as them. Bantu men could marry Twa women, but Twa men were forbidden from marrying Bantu women. That discrimination also extended to wages, as Twas were paid less than Bantus for the same work, when they were not subjected to forced labour.[15]

13. JS 22 and Savie Asbl NGO were concerned that, although there was no explicit criminalization of same-sex relations, 75 per cent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the DRC had no access to services such as education, employment, housing, health care and social security, owing to systematic stigmatization and discrimination. Religious leaders and widespread cultural beliefs in witchcraft contributed to the stigmatization and marginalization of those persons. In addition, the media and social media platforms had been used to incite violence and discrimination against them.[16]

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

14. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) had expressed its deep concern following the issuance of circular note No. 002/MME/CAB/ME/MIN/J&GS/2024 of 13 March 2024, in which the Minister of Justice asked the competent judicial authorities to proceed with the effective enforcement of the death penalty "following the handing down of an irrevocable judicial sentence in time of war, under a state of siege or state of emergency, during a police operation to maintain or restore public order, or during any other exceptional circumstance". That decision, which had lifted the moratorium in place since 2003, represented a step backwards in the protection of the right to life. ACHPR urged the Government to reverse its decision and work to restore and consolidate the moratorium on executions.[17]

15. JS 11, JS 12 and JS 21 recommended that the DRC introduce a moratorium on death sentences and formalize the moratorium on executions.[18] JS 11 recommended that the DRC: (i) amend the Criminal Code and the Military Criminal Code to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, in particular those that do not include an element of intentional killing; (ii) abolish the death penalty for all crimes, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution protecting the right to life; (iii) amend the law so that civilians are not tried by military courts; and (iv) implement the recommendations on the death penalty made by the Human Rights Committee and other United Nations mechanisms.[19]

16. JS 12 noted that, between June 2022 and March 2023, Congolese security forces had been involved in extrajudicial executions in Kwamouth, Mai-Ndombe Province, where they were deployed to put an end to clashes between the Yaka and Teke communities that had led to the deaths of over 300 people. On 30 August 2023, in Goma, elements of the Republican Guard had violently put down a demonstration organized by a religious movement called Natural Judaic and Messianic Faith towards the Nations to protest against the presence of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). According to JS 12, at least 48 demonstrators had been killed and an unknown number had been arrested and handed over to the military justice system.[20]

17. JS 19 stressed that acts of torture were recurrent and that the risk of torture was very high in places of detention.[21] JS 4 noted that, in the east of the country, the security services and members of armed groups were continuing their acts of violence against detainees, including torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment. The National Intelligence Agency cells and military intelligence cells still existed, along with other improvised places of detention. JS 4 and JS 19 noted that conditions for detainees remained particularly worrying in cells maintained by the military, paramilitaries and armed groups in several

territories. Overcrowding, dilapidated prison buildings and malnutrition among the inmates were encouraging the spread of disease and deaths in prisons.[22]

International humanitarian law

18. Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) noted that the humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC was exacerbated by continuing violence that prevented humanitarian agencies from delivering essential assistance to isolated populations in Masisi territory and Rutshuru. PHR recommended to: (i) adopt measures to prevent conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) by ending hostilities and ensuring that armed forces and police forces, as well as various armed groups involved in the hostilities, do not engage in sexual violence; (ii) strengthen oversight mechanisms to prevent sexual violence, and address risk factors for sexual violence in camps such as lack of food and other humanitarian supplies.[23]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

19. JS 9 recommended that the DRC: (i) ensure prompt and thorough investigations into the killing, torture, and ill-treatment of journalists, and bring all perpetrators, including conspirators, to justice to ensure accountability; (ii) take measures to end arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists and ensure that journalists who are detained are held in safe and sanitary condition, have adequate access to food, water, and bedding, and are not subject to degrading treatment; (iii) ensure that all journalists are granted the right to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court in a timely manner.[24]

20. JS 8 recommended that: (i) the DRC take stringent measures to bring to justice those responsible for serious human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, and set up adequate transitional justice mechanisms guaranteeing truth and reconciliation, the right to justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition for victims; and that (ii) the DRC be encouraged to prioritize the prosecution of international crimes committed in conflict zones and the fight against impunity for human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, in particular by prosecuting and sentencing perpetrators expeditiously through the establishment of specialized mixed chambers or through the International Criminal Court.[25]

21. JS 17 recommended that the DRC adopt a law for the protection of witnesses and victims, to encourage testimony during judicial inquiries and promote the discovery of the truth, and the establishment of a specialized body or chambers within the courts of appeal to try serious human rights violations.[26]

22. JS 12 noted that, in the DRC, lawyers exercised their profession under constant pressure from the State authorities and their governing bodies, subject to various threats, in a context where guarantees for their safety were almost non-existent. JS 12 recommended that the DRC: (i) adopt a regulatory text guaranteeing the total independence of the DRC Bar from the public authorities; (ii) conduct independent and thorough investigations into violations committed against lawyers in the exercise of their profession; and (iii) develop a national strategy, in collaboration with bar associations and lawyers, to identify and put an end to obstacles to the work of lawyers.[27]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

23. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) reported the killings and aggressions of Christians by the Islamic extremist group called the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)[28]. Open Doors International noted that, in 2021, the Archbishop of Bukavu had reported a rise in attacks on Christians, including assaults on seven parishes, a school, a health center and a convent. The Archbishop of Bukavu had highlighted those attacks from ADF often occurred near law enforcement stations and criticized the lack of effective government authority.[29]

24. JS 1 was concerned about the government's inaction over ongoing physical violence against the Jehovah's Witnesses because of their peaceful manifestation of religious beliefs. JS 1 also expressed concern at the expulsion of Jehovah's Witness students, with resulting interruption of education, and at the dismissal of teachers for respectfully declining to participate in activities contrary to their religious beliefs. JS 1 recommended to the Government to take the necessary steps to: (i) prosecute criminals who attack Jehovah's

Witnesses and vandalize their places of worship; (ii) protect the fundamental rights of Jehovah's Witness teachers and students.[30]

25. JS 4 and JS 9 noted that threats to freedom of expression and press freedom were occurring on multiple fronts, namely: (i) the killing, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of journalists; (ii) physical attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists; (iii) arrest, jailing, and imprisonment of journalists, (iv) incommunicado holding and lengthy pre-trial and arbitrary detention of journalists, (v) expulsion of foreign journalists from the country; (vi) invocation of criminal defamation, insult, "false news," and anti-state laws against journalists; (vii) suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions, and shutdown of journalism offices and studios. JS 9 recommended that the DRC take measures to end all forms of torture, violence, and other ill-treatment inflicted on journalists, including the use of excessive force and physical beatings.[31]

26. JS 4 recommended: (i) decriminalizing press offences and clarifying national legislation in order to avoid abusive prosecutions of journalists and human rights defenders for defamation; (ii) bringing to justice those involved in acts of intimidation and threats against journalists and human rights defenders and in their arbitrary arrest and illegal detention; (iii) expediting the process of adopting the law on civil society organizations while ensuring that the text is in line with the international obligations of the DRC in that area; and (iv) lifting the restrictions on the media in territories controlled by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23).[32]

27. JS 7 was deeply concerned by the arbitrary arrests, killings, intimidation and judicial harassment of human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists. It was further alarmed by civic space violations committed under the state of siege in eastern DRC, in particular regarding the right to peaceful assembly, including the indiscriminate killings of protesters, and the prosecution of protesters and activists before military courts. As a result, civic space in DRC was currently classified as repressed by the CIVICUS Monitor, indicating the existence of severe civic space restrictions.[33]

28. JS 2 and JS 7 recommended to amend Law 23/027 on the Protection and Responsibility of Human Rights Defenders in DRC and guarantee a favourable environment for their work.[34] JS 7 recommended to: (i) immediately and unconditionally release all HRDs and journalists still in detention and drop all charges against them; (ii) provide civil society members, HRDs and journalists with a safe and secure environment in which to carry out their work, conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against them and bring the perpetrators of such offences to justice.[35] JS 2 recommended amending the law on new information and communication technologies to improve the working environment for human rights defenders.[36]

29. Rien Sans les Femmes recommended to make it compulsory for political parties to take gender parity into account in their electoral lists, in accordance with the Constitution.[37] JS 26 recommended taking measures to increase women's participation in public life.[38]

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

30. Elizka Relief Foundation was concerned that the right to work in the DRC faced numerous environmental, economic, social, security, and political challenges. The Labour Code lacked mechanisms to monitor or enforce wage and working hour regulations, leaving over 90% of workers in the informal sector – such as subsistence farming, informal trade, and mining – vulnerable to hazardous and exploitative conditions. There were no social security protections for the unemployed, and the Penal Code did not penalize forced labor. Additionally, 40,000 children worked in unsafe conditions in artisanal and unregulated mines.[39]

Right to an adequate standard of living

31. JS 6 noted that severe food insecurity affected more than 25.4 million people, 3.5 million of whom were facing a food emergency. JS 6 recommended: (i) ensuring compliance with and implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 2, by ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture; (ii) investing in modern agriculture to guarantee quality production in sufficient quantities to

meet the food needs of the entire population; and (iii) facilitating and ensuring access for displaced persons in camps and in host families to sufficient quality food.[40]

Right to health

32. JS 6 recommended that the DRC: (i) improve access to primary health care for the population in general and displaced persons in particular by investing in the quality of existing health-care facilities and supplying them with modern materials and equipment; (ii) provide medical care for displaced persons living in camps and in host families to reduce the risk of mortality among women and children aged 0–5 years; and (iii) ensure proper epidemiological monitoring in all high-risk areas where displaced persons are located.[41]

33. JS 25 recommended: (i) guaranteeing access to comprehensive sexuality education; (ii) ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services adapted to the needs of adolescents and young people; (iii) fully implementing article 14 (2) (c) of the Maputo Protocol throughout the country, in order to reduce the number of unsafe abortions in the DRC; (iv) decriminalizing abortion to enable all women to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights, and ensuring that the service is available and accessible; and (v) ensuring that public health facilities have the necessary resources and technical means to provide comprehensive abortion care.[42]

Right to education

34. JS 20 noted that the school programme was not compatible with the cultural and traditional way of life of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples. During the period for collecting unlined forest products, they stayed away from school in order to pursue their way of life.[43] JS 20 recommended that the DRC: (i) put in place enforcement measures to implement Act No. 22/030 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples; (ii) ensure that the school calendar reflects the way of life of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples to facilitate their education, in accordance with Act No. 22/030 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples; and (iii) extend the development programme from the current 145 territories to areas where Indigenous Pygmy Peoples live.[44]

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

35. Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Personnes Indigentes et en Détresse (FDAPID) highlighted that the DRC suffered a financial loss of around $15 billion due to the illegal exploitation of its natural resources. Additionally, some mining companies exploited children working in hazardous conditions to extract cobalt.[45] International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) reported that more than 90% of the DRC's artisanal gold was informally or illegally mined and between 95% and 98% was estimated to be smuggled out of the country through the eastern neighbouring states.[46] FDAPID noted that mineral exploitation in the DRC was poorly controlled and was one of the causes of conflict and human rights violations in the country.[47]

36. African Resources Watch (AFREWATCH), JS 13 and JS 27 emphasized that the activities of mining companies had had serious consequences for the environment.[48] They included the destruction of arable land, biodiversity and forests as a result of deforestation along with excessive mud caused by mining activities. Affected communities in Wamuzimu also confirmed that river water had been affected by chemical spills and that the water was polluted as a result of mining activities carried out by those companies. AFREWATCH and JS 18 recommended ensuring that investments by multinational companies comply with the country's environmental protection laws and regularly assessing the environmental impact of their mining projects.[49] JS 27 recommended to comply with the Protocol on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources which was adopted on November 30, 2006, by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.[50]

37. JS 13 recommended: (i) ensuring adequate compensation for communities affected by land-grabbing and river water pollution; (ii) providing affected communities with access to health care in the event of illnesses caused by pollution from mining activities; (iii) conducting a survey to ascertain the quality of river water polluted by the companies'

mining activities; and (iv) making environmental impact studies and mining permits available to the public.[51]

38. JS 18 recommended to: (i) take measures to require multinational corporations to fully and publicly disclose environmental, social, and governance information in a timely manner according to the laws and regulations of the DRC, their respective corporate domicile, and recognized international best practices; (ii) maximize its capacity to monitor multinational corporations' greenhouse gas pollutant emission data, and require that multinational corporations fully and publicly disclose this data in a timely manners; and (iii) examine and adopt statutory or administrative measures of other jurisdictions, particularly those where foreign mining companies are headquartered. These measures should require that foreign mining investors complete ecological restoration works following environmentally harmful activities, on a comparable basis.[52]

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

39. Human Rights Foundation (HRF) reported between November 21st to 30th, 2023, the rape of at least 66 women by armed men in the village of Kishishe in North Kivu. One survivor reported that the armed group accused them of association with the rival militant group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda. Another survivor said that M23 members had repeatedly raped her and robbed her home.[53]

40. JS 14 and Synergie pour l'assistance judiciaire aux victimes de violations des droits humains au Nord Kivu (SAJ) stressed that, as CRSV in the DRC was ongoing, more needed to be done to ensure that all the crimes were investigated and the perpetrators were brought to justice, both for historic and most recent crimes. However, despite some investigations and prosecutions, impunity for CRSV in the DRC was rampant. JS 14, JS 26 and SAJ recommended that the DRC support the establishment of an effective and functional justice mechanism, accessible to all regions, capable of putting an end to impunity and discrimination against victims of crimes of rape and sexual violence.[54]

41. JS 10 recommended to: (i) enforce the Mouebara Law, offering a multi-disciplinary response to victims of gender-based violence; (ii) establish Mouebara centers in health centers across the country, including legal assistance to victims; (iii) set up mobile clinics to offer services, in rural settings, to survivors of gender-based violence; (iv) support civil society organizations that offer multi-disciplinary services to survivors of gender-based violence; (v) enforce laws to bring to justice the perpetrators of all gender-based violence.[55]

Children

42. JS 15 noted that the scale of the problem of children in conflict with the law in the DRC called for the establishment of a reintegration policy. JS 15 recommended that the DRC: (i) adopt, as soon as possible, a national child protection policy, with a holistic component focusing on the reintegration of children in conflict with the law; (ii) strengthen the human and technical resources of teams of court social workers; and (iii) adopt, without delay, the decree on the organization and operation of children's institutions, which provides for a reasonable ratio of educators to children and a suitable framework for reintegration support and follow-up.[56]

43. JS 16 noted that only 40 per cent of children under the age of 5 were registered with the civil registry and that only 13 per cent had a birth certificate. Although birth registration was free, obstacles persisted, particularly for children born at home or in rural areas. In fact, some rural areas were very remote, making access to registration more difficult. Added to that was a lack of knowledge of the procedure and the fact that many women gave birth at home. JS 16 recommended that the DRC continue its efforts to include the entire population in the register of births.[57]

44. Broken Chalk and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) expressed deep concern over the persistent recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, especially as this gives rise to other serious violations of the rights of the child, such as abductions,

killings, sexual violence and attacks on schools.[58] Broken Chalk noted that, in 2023, the number of child recruits has doubled alarmingly.[59]

Persons with disabilities

45. The Carter Center highlighted that in the DRC, 15%–18% of people lived with disabilities due to prolonged armed conflict. The government struggled to uphold their rights and ensure their equal participation in public affairs. Social stigma further hampered the participation of disabled individuals, including indigenous people and those with albinism Civil society estimated that fewer than 100 candidates with disabilities ran for office, and that there was no data from the electoral commission on their participation. Challenges included missing wheelchair ramps, refusal of alternative voting options, long waits, overcrowded centers, and difficulties in accessing campaign resources.[60]

46. Centre d'Etudes sur Handicap, Justice et Résolution 1325 (CEHAJ) recommended that the DRC: (i) build the leadership capacities of women and girls living with disabilities and provide them with electoral civic education; (ii) implement the various measures to promote vulnerable persons, including women and girls with disabilities; and (iii) ensure 5 per cent representation of persons living with disabilities in public institutions and at least 3 per cent in private institutions.[61]

Indigenous Peoples and minorities

47. The ACHPR welcomed the adoption of a bill recognizing the customary rights of indigenous populations, in particular the Batwa community by the Parliament in 2022[62]. However, on 19 January 2024, the ACHPR followed with grave concern the reports on the ongoing violence and eviction of members of the Batwa indigenous population in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the DRC. The ACHPR initiated an urgent letter of appeal to President Tshisekedi and his Government, calling for cessation of the violence and evictions in order to limit the irreparable damage that may be caused to the lives, livelihoods, bodily integrity, family life, safety and security of vulnerable members of indigenous communities including women, children and the elderly.[63]

48. JS 2 was concerned that the Indigenous Pygmies faced particular problems of dispossession, land grabbing, conflict, displacement and eviction from their living spaces, without free, prior and informed consent. Their lands were still being exploited by mining companies without any procedure, and they did not benefit from the advantages derived from the exploitation.[64]

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

49. JS 5 stressed that the legal framework in the DRC did not adequately protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. That situation created a climate of legal insecurity and fostered impunity for acts of violence and discrimination. JS 5 recommended drafting and implementing laws that explicitly protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and defend them from discrimination, violence and other forms of harm. Those laws should comply with international human rights standards and include effective mechanisms enabling lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons to report violations of their rights in complete safety and receive adequate protection against reprisals.[65]

50. Savie Asbl reported that in Ituri, the LGBTI community faced high rates of HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis due to inadequate support and a lack of policies providing free medical services in the DRC. Although free medical services are available in the province, many individuals hide their sexual orientation to access these services but are rejected if discovered.[66]

Internally displaced persons

51. ACHPR was deeply concerned by the growing number of internally displaced persons (almost 7 million) at the start of 2024, with over 150,000 persons displaced since 2 February, more than half of them children, in the Provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. ACHPR was dismayed by the numerous human rights violations suffered by

internally displaced persons, including abduction, arbitrary executions, extortion and gender-based violence. ACHPR encouraged the Congolese authorities to pursue their efforts to put an end to the conflict in the east of the country and re-establish security, in order to limit the massive forced displacement of populations. It also called on the international community to support the DRC in tackling the humanitarian crisis with which it is confronted.[67]

Stateless persons

52. Elizka Relief Foundation pointed out that the DRC had made no progress in supporting the acquisition of citizenship for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness, particularly people with Sudanese origin, Rwandan origin, and the Mabororo. It recommended the Congolese government to reconsider its policies regarding stateless individuals or those at risk of losing it, by facilitating the procedures for registering, documenting, identifying, recognizing and including them in the national and legal systems.[68]

Notes

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

[1] A/HRC/42/25, A/HRC/42/25/Add.1, and A/HRC/42/2.

[2] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

AFREWATCH	African Resources Watch;
AUDF	Alliance pour l'Universalité des Droits Fondamentaux;
BrokenChalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk;
CEHAJ 1325	Le Centre d'Etudes sur Handicap, Justice et Résolution 1325;
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice;
ECP	End Corporal Punishment;
ERF	Elizka Relief Foundation;
FDAPID	Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Personnes Indigentes et en Détresse;
GADF	Groupe d'Action pour les Droits de la Femme;
HRF	Human Rights Foundation;
iPeace	Initiatives pour la paix et les droits humains;
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation;
ODI	Open Doors International;
PHR	Physicians for Human Rights;
RSLF	Rien sans les femmes;
SAJ	Synergie pour l'Assistance Judiciaire aux victimes de violations des droits humains;
Savie lgbtq org	Savie lgbtq org;
TCC	The Carter Center;

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by:** The African Association of Jehovah's Witnesses and The European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses, Selters (Germany);
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by:** Action contre la violation des droits de personnes vulnerable et 59 organisations, Kinshasa (DRC);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Association for Progressive Communications, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Centre for Civil and Political Rights, Geneva (Switzerland);

JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** OASIS RDC, Kinshasa (DRC);
JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Caritas Internationalis, Rome (Italy);
JS7	**Joint submission 7 submitted by:** CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS8	**Joint submission 8 submitted by:** Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid_Cordaid, Kinshasa (DRC);
JS9	**Joint submission 9 submitted by:** Committee to Protect Journalists, New York (USA);
JS10	**Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Congregations of St Joseph, New York (USA);
JS11	**Joint submission 11 submitted by:** Ensemble contre la peine de mort, Paris (France);
JS12	**Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Féderation Internationale de l'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture, Paris, France;
JS13	**Joint submission 13 submitted by:** FIAN International, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS14	**Joint submission 14 submitted by:** International Bar Association, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
JS15	**Joint submission 15 submitted by:** International Catholic Child Bureau, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS16	**Joint submission 16 submitted by:** Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, Veyrier (Switzerland);
JS17	**Joint submission 17 submitted by:** International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Copenhagen (Denmark);
JS18	**Joint submission 18 submitted by:** Coalition of Center for Transnational Environmental Accountability and Oil and Mines Governance Center for UPR-DRC, Baltimore, (USA);
JS19	**Joint submission 19 submitted by:** World Organisation Against Torture, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS20	**Joint submission 20 submitted by:** Coalition d'ONGs pour UPR-RDC, Goma (DRC);
JS21	**Joint submission 21 submitted by:** Planète Réfugiés-Droits de l'Homme, Port-Vendres (France);
JS22	**Joint submission 22 submitted by:** Repro Justice Congo, Goma (DRC);
JS23	**Joint submission 23 submitted by:** Small Media, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
JS24	**Joint submission 24 submitted by:** Solidarité Pour le Développement Communautaire, Kinshasa (DRC);
JS25	**Joint submission 25 submitted by:** The Sexual Rights Initiative, Ottawa (Canada);
JS26	**Joint submission 26 submitted by:** The Carter Center, Kinshasa (DRC);
JS27	**Joint submission 27 submitted by:** World Council of Churches Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, Geneva (Switzerland).

National human rights institution:

CNDH	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme, Kinshasa, (DRC).

Regional intergovernmental organization(s):

ACHPR	African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, Banjul, The Gambia.

[3] Contribution de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme de la RDC, p.1et 5.
[4] Ibid., pp. 5 et 6.
[5] Ibid., p. 6.

[6] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[7] JS 11, p. 4; iPeace, para. 26.
[8] JS 22, p. 4.
[9] JS 7, paras. 6 and 5.
[10] JS 3, para. 44; JS 23, para. 28.
[11] GADF, para. 10; JS 25, para. 39.
[12] ECP, para. 1
[13] AUDF, p. 4.
[14] JS 4, p. 10; JS 19, pp. 6–7.
[15] JS 24, p. 12.
[16] JS 22, p. 7; Savieasblngo.org, p. 1.
[17] Communiqué de presse sur la levée du moratoire sur la peine de mort en République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) | African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (au.int).
[18] JS 11, para. 3; JS 12, para. 7; JS 21, p. 6.
[19] JS 11, paras. 3, 4, 11.
[20] JS 12, paras. 9–10.
[21] JS 19, p. 6.
[22] JS 4, para. 18; JS 19, p. 6.
[23] Physicians for Human Rights, para. 16.
[24] JS 9, paras. 44–47.
[25] JS 8, p. 10.
[26] JS 17, p. 4.
[27] JS 12, paras. 39, 40, 42.
[28] ECLJ, para. 6.
[29] Open Doors International, para. 6 and 17.
[30] JS 1, para. 28.
[31] JS 9, paras. 10 and 44; JS 4, para. 7.
[32] JS 4, p. 6.
[33] JS 7, p. 1.
[34] JS 2, pp. 6–9; JS 7, pp10–13.
[35] JS 7, pp. 10–13.
[36] JS 2, pp. 6–9.

[37] RSF, para. 14
[38] JS 26, p. 8.
[39] Elizka Relief Foundation, page 6
[40] JS 6, paras. 16–17.
[41] JS 3, para. 23.
[42] JS 25, pp. 11–12.
[43] JS 20, paras. 6–7.
[44] JS 20, pp. 4–5.
[45] FDAPID, para. 18.
[46] ITUC, page 3.
[47] FDAPID, para. 16.
[48] AFREWATCH, para. 7; JS 3, p. 9; JS 27, p. 5.
[49] AFREWATCH, paras. 28–29; JS 18, para. 35.
[50] JS 27, p. 6.
[51] JS 13, pp. 9 et 11.
[52] JS 18, para. 35.
[53] HRF, para. 29.
[54] JS 14, para. 21; Synergie pour l'assistance judiciaire aux victimes de violations des droits humains au Nord Kivu, p7. JS 26, p.11.
[55] JS 10, p. 5.
[56] JS 15 paras. 19–23.
[57] JS 16, paras. 19–20.
[58] ITUC, page 3; Broken Chalk, p. 6.
[59] Broken Chalk, page 6.
[60] Carter Center, pages 3–4.
[61] CEHAJ 1325, p. 3.
[62] ACHPR, p. 4.
[63] African Commission sends urgent letter of appeal to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) calling for cessation of the violence and eviction of members of the Batwa indigenous population in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB) | African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (au.int).
[64] JS 2, pages 5–6.
[65] JS 4, pp. 8–10.
[66] Savie Asbl, page 2.
[67] Communiqué de presse sur la situation des personnes déplacées internes dans l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo, particulièrement dans les villes de Sake et Goma | African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (au.int).
[68] Elizka Relief Foundation, page 2.