

**Delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo**  
***Position Paper for the General Assembly***

The topics to be discussed in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are: I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security; II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All; III. Combating Human Trafficking. The Democratic Republic of the Congo acknowledges the importance of all three topics and we are looking forward to the discussions.

**I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security**

Nine countries in the world possess a total of 13,475 nuclear weapons, from which a single one would suffice to destroy the world as we know it forever. This latent threat to the very existence of human life is of outstanding importance for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This is why we signed the *Treaty of Pelindaba* (1996), which establishes and ensures Africa as a nuclear weapon free zone. Additionally, we have endorsed, among 127 other Member States, a "Humanitarian Pledge" aiming to "stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons". For that goal, we co-sponsored GA Resolution 71/258 (2017), which established the formal mandate to commence international negotiations for "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination". Our efforts were rewarded in 2017 with the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW), to which the DRC is a signatory. As we are actively working on its ratification, we also co-sponsored GA Resolution C.1/74/L.12 (2019), to invite other member states to follow our example. Furthermore, we are party to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT), a fundamental tool for nuclear disarmament and the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy. We are also Member of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the key disarmament forum, responsible for inter alia the NPT. Furthermore, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy was implemented to streamline all national efforts to ensure regional and global non-proliferation and disarmament. As the first nuclear reactor on the African continent was built in our capital Kinshasa, the DRC recognised its responsibility to guarantee the safety of all weapon capable material and its exclusive peaceful use. This is why we have worked closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency to fulfil this. We believe that only a comprehensive and multilateral approach can create long-lasting peace. We therefore suggest to the GA to reiterate their appeal to all Member States, especially Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to sign and ratify the TPNW on the earliest possible date. Next to the immediate abolition of Nuclear Weapons, we want to strengthen the existing disarmament regime by fostering the necessary consensus among every Member State. Therefore, the GA should recommend the CD to consider amendments to the NPT at the forthcoming 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. Firstly, NWS could be defined as those Member states that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 2000. This would allow two de facto NWS, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India to be invited to become party to NPT both bearing the status of a NWS. This mutual act of good faith will invigorate the bilateral non-proliferation efforts of these countries, render the NPT more inclusive and will eventually reinforce the global disarmament mechanism. We recommend the GA to use the newly built momentum and call the CD to adopt a program of work, containing an ad-hoc-working group on a fissile material cutoff- treaty. This step towards a strengthened multilateral, inclusive regime for total nuclear disarmament will enhance our mutual efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 "Peace" and 17 "Global Partnership".

**II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All**

There are currently 1 billion people without electricity, many of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Thus, the universal access to energy is the first economic priority for the DRC. This was highlighted again by our President, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi during the opening ceremony of the 1st Forum on "Electric Power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" in 2019. On that note, we welcome GA Resolution 70/1 (2015) "*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*", as it paves the road toward an inclusive and multilateral development. Furthermore, we fully embrace the GA Resolution 69/313 (2015) "*Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development*", as it concludes that sustainable development can only be reached with internationally joint and coordinated financing. We also support the African Unions (AU) *Agenda 2063*, where universal access to electricity is a key goal. To reach that, the AU Development Agency and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have agreed to jointly develop "*The Continental Power System Master Plan*",

a decisive step towards making Africa's vast and renewable energy potential accessible through a shared market. For example, the DRC's energy mix is comprised of 98,4% hydro-electric energy, underlining our strong commitment towards sustainability. We believe that a major burden to universal electricity access are the investment risks and a lacking financial frame for sustainable development. Therefore, we propose to the GA the streamlining and upscaling of the already existing Derisking Renewable Energy Investment (DREI) tool through a respective platform of communication. The GA should recommend the UN Development Program to create a Forum concerned with that matter. It should include governmental, non-governmental and private stakeholders such as national energy agencies, development banks and civil-society organizations. The purpose is to provide Member States with proposals for cost effective, individual tailored instruments to enhance electrification by fostering cooperation of the private finance sector and regional and local stakeholders. Said Forum could be named "DREI Forum of united Renovation" (FouR), it would meet annually and create a final report, which will be published. DREI FouR should help reduce, transfer or compensate investment risks for decentralized off- or mini-grid solutions. Special focus should be put on political and financial derisking measures, inter alia state subsidies, guarantees or technical programs for Solar Home Systems (SHS) and Solar Mini Grids (SMG) as they unite sustainability with availability, modernity and reliability. Both SHS and SMG bear the potential to rapidly increase electrification for rural African regions. This is why DREI FouR shall first take place in the Headquarter of the AU in Addis Ababa. This should happen jointly with the AU and the AfDB. Said Forum will be funded by the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund. Should this approach lead to increased sustainable investment, it could also be used in other regions of the world. The improved access to decentralized off- or mini-grid electricity for population in rural areas will directly promote SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy" and all interlinked Goals such as SDGs 1 "No Poverty", 4 "Quality Education" and 13 "Climate Action".

### **III. Combating Human Trafficking**

"The individual is sacred. The State has the obligation to respect and protect him/her." This guiding principle laid out in Article 16 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is irreconcilable with Human Trafficking. We, therefore, strive to eradicate this heinous practice from the face of the earth, as it directly violates the inalienable rights to freedom, liberty and equality, which are laid out in the first two articles of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. To promote the mutual fight for these rights, we welcome the adoption of GA Resolutions 61/180 (2006) and 72/195 (2017) "*Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons*". Furthermore, we continuously approve the GA Resolution 64/293 (2010), fostering global cooperation and upscaling previous efforts. We are party to the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, highlighting once more our determination on the matter. Moreover, we strongly support the AU's *Agenda 2063* in its strive for the total eradication of human trafficking until 2063. This aligns with Article 14 of our Constitution, as it establishes the absolute prohibition of any act of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. For that aim, we strengthened our judicial groundwork with the enactment of Law 6/018 in 2006 and Law 09/001 "*The Child Protection Code*" in 2009, outlawing and strictly punishing any form of sex and child trafficking. We have also implemented the National Action Plan in 2018 which strengthens the position of women and children, who are the most vulnerable to Human Trafficking. Furthermore, we established a National Human Rights Commission in 2015, which is concerned with overseeing the progress that is made on all Human Rights related fields. While this topic is already of highest importance to us, we believe that the international Community needs to reallocate their attention towards this ongoing global crisis. Therefore, we propose to the GA to raise global awareness on that matter by declaring July 2020 the "Human Trafficking Awareness Month". To underline its global dimension, the GA should recommend the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to jointly initiate and organize six informative workshops, one on each continent on the topic of combatting Human Trafficking with representatives of each Member State located on the specific continent. This would culminate on the 30 July 2020, the "World Day against Trafficking in Persons", with a global summit organized by both organizations in the UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa. The Summit will be comprised of representatives from each member state. Its purpose is to share expertise on combating Human Trafficking, emphasizing the participating role of women and girls. The workshops and concluding Summit should be funded by the "Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children". This broad awareness campaign will further promote the combat against Human Trafficking.