

**Oral report to United Nations 52<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Council**

**Referring to Item 10, Democratic Republic of the Congo, March 30 2023**

**From Next Century Foundation & UK Justice Congo Group**

We warmly welcome the 3 year work plan in the Council's resolution 51/36, addressing the current complex and tragic events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

However, the Congolese people are eagerly awaiting action on Robert Garreton's Mapping Report of 2009, commissioned by the United Nations to investigate human rights abuses and crimes against humanity in DRC, from March 1993 to June 2003. This Report details 617 violent incidents occurring at this time, whose perpetrators can continue to act with impunity, having never been brought to justice.

The Report contains a plan of action for dealing with these crimes, but no action has been taken, and the Report remains shelved by the United Nations to this day.

You will be aware of the very long history of violence and impunity in DRC, going back to colonial times, from the 15<sup>th</sup> century until 1960, when DRC obtained independence from Belgium.

With a history like this, it is essential that the international community assists in bringing to justice those modern perpetrators named in the Mapping Report, to give some peace of mind to those who have suffered so much.

Thank you.