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Democratic Republic of the Congo

April 6, 2014

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Call for Adoptive Families, Adoption Service Providers, and Adoption Stakeholders to Meet with Democratic Republic of the Congo Authorities

Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities will be visiting the United States April 16-26, 2014 to meet with U.S. officials regarding the U.S. intercountry adoption process and U.S. social welfare options for adopted children. The visit is designed to address the Congolese authorities' concerns regarding the welfare of children adopted from the Democratic Republic of Congo by U.S. citizen parents. Addressing these concerns could have a significant impact on Congolese authorities' perspectives on intercountry adoptions to the United States, and on the future of intercountry adoptions from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United States.

Invitation to adoptive families: Adoptive parents who have completed adoptions from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and whose Congolese adoptive children are present in the United States, are invited to bring their children to meet with the Congolese delegation on the following dates and times:

Washington, DC: Friday, April 18, 2:45-4:45 p.m.

Minneapolis, MN: Friday, April 25, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Adoptive families must confirm their participation in advance via email to the Department of State, Office of Children's Issues at AskCI@state.gov no later than noon ET April 10, 2014. The email should specify (1) which meeting the family will be able to attend, and (2) the names, dates and places of birth, and driver's license or passport numbers for all family members who will attend the meeting. The email should be titled "RSVP to DRC - Families Meeting." The Office of Children's Issues will provide further logistical details directly to participating adoptive families via email by April 11, 2014.

Adoptive families who elect to meet with the Congolese delegation are encouraged to bring photos, and if possible, videos to give to the Congolese officials illustrating the conditions in which their adopted children are residing and how they are adjusting in the United States.

Invitation to ASPs: ASPs who currently offer services in adoptions from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are invited to meet with the Congolese delegation on the following dates and times:

Washington, DC: Monday, April 21, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Minneapolis, MN: Wednesday, April 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

ASP representatives must confirm their participation in advance via email to the Department of State, Office of Children's Issues at AskCI@state.gov no later than noon ET April 10, 2014. The email should specify (1) which meeting the ASP will be able to attend, and (2) the names, dates and places of birth, driver's license or passport numbers, and email addresses of up to two representatives who would represent the ASP during the meeting. The email should be titled "RSVP to DRC - ASP Meeting." The Office of Children's Issues will provide further logistical details directly to participants via email by April 11, 2014.

Invitation to adoption stakeholders: U.S. adoption stakeholders with an interest in intercountry adoptions from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are invited to a meeting with the visiting Congolese delegation.

Please note this meeting is for stakeholder organizations and is not open to ASPs. The stakeholder meeting with the delegation will be held in Washington, DC at the following date and time:

Monday, April 21, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Adoption stakeholders must confirm their participation in advance via email to the Department of State, Office of Children's Issues at AskCI@state.gov no later than noon ET April 10, 2014. The email should specify (1) which meeting the stakeholder will be able to attend, and (2) the names, dates and places of birth, driver's license or passport numbers, and email addresses of up to two representatives who will represent the stakeholder organization during the meeting. The email should be titled "RSVP to DRC - Stakeholder Meeting." The Office of Children's Issues will provide further logistical details via email directly to participants by April 11, 2014.

Please direct questions related to this notice, or a specific adoption from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the Department of State, Office of Children's Issues at 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or 202-501-4444 from outside the United States. Email inquiries may be directed to AskCI@state.gov.