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7 June 2010

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Republic of the Congo: The attestation d'identité, including its format, the issuing authority, the period of its issuance and its various uses
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Two Congolese government sources consulted by the Research Directorate stated that the *attestation d'identité* is issued by the police to replace a lost or damaged identity card, when the stock of original identity cards has run out and while other identity cards are being printed (Republic of the Congo 21 May 2010; *ibid.* 19 May 2010). During a 19 May 2010 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, a consular representative of the Republic of the Congo in Toronto explained that the attestation d'identité is valid for one year, while the identity card is permanent. The attestation d'identité is plasticized and stiff (Republic of the Congo 19 May 2010). Like the identity card, it bears the following information: family name, first names, date and location of birth, a photograph, the bearer's address and fingerprints, the bearer's parents' names, the card number, the date of issuance and the signature of the competent authority (*ibid.*). Additional information on the attestation d'identité could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Republic of the Congo. 21 May 2010. Republic of Congo Embassy in Washington, DC. Telephone interview with a representative.

_____. 19 May 2010. Consulate General of Congo in Toronto. Telephone interview with a consular representative of the Republic of the Congo in Toronto.

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Attempts to contact the Civil Identification Division (Division de l'identification civile) and the Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire town halls were unsuccessful.

Internet sites, including : Afrol News, AllAfrica.com, European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), Government of the Republic of the Congo, Grioo.com, InfoSud Belgique (InfoSud), Internationale de l'éducation (IE), Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF), Réseau des médias francophones (MEDIAP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), United States (US) Department of State.

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