

**WORKING GROUP ON UPR
- examination of Ecuador – May 21, 2012 -**

Madam President,

The delegation of Romania welcomes the delegation of Ecuador headed by the minister... and thanks for the comprehensive report made today on the situation of human rights in Ecuador, which addresses both the application of recommendations received in 2008 and the progress made in between the two UPR sessions.

In our view, the adoption of a new Constitution, which sets the general framework for the human rights protection, is a major step forward. We have also noted the many positive results obtained in recent years with respect to protecting economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. We encourage the authorities of Ecuador to continue to pay due attention to the implementation steps that are further required.

As regards the challenges that still remain, the delegation of Romania would appreciate receiving further clarification on the following issues:

1. Is Ecuador considering the implementation of CAT recommendation that torture be criminalized and its definition be formulated in line with the Convention?
2. How will the Government of Ecuador address the high rate of women's underemployment and unemployment, especially in the rural areas?

Thank you, Madam President.