

**Statement by Romania
Working Group on UPR
- examination of Guatemala – October 24, 2012 -**

Madam President,

The delegation of Romania would like to commend the Government of Guatemala for a comprehensive UPR report, as well as for the inclusive process that led to its elaboration.

We would also express our appreciation for the open-door policy adopted by the Government towards international human rights monitoring mechanisms and for the numerous legislative, institutional and programmatic measures taken over the last years. We believe that they are important achievements, which will pave the way for improving the human rights record of Guatemala.

In terms of women's rights, we took note of the various Acts adopted and of the creation of special courts for femicide and other forms of violence against women. Yet, violence against women remains an issue of high concern. We recommend the Government of Guatemala to provide the necessary financial resources for the application of the law concerning femicide, as well as of the National Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women.

We would also recommend the repeal of all discriminatory legislation against women, including in the Labour, Civil and Criminal Codes.

Since the death penalty is still permitted under the Constitution, we would like to recommend the Government of Guatemala to consider its abolition.

In concluding, let me state that we appreciate the commitment of the Government of Guatemala to continue taking action and measures to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Guatemala. Building on that, we would like to encourage the authorities to provide an interim report on the application of the recommendations received during the current session.

Thank you, Madam President.