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

Madam President,

The delegation of Romania would like to thank the Ukrainian authorities for the presentation of the report on the implementation of the recommendations received during the first cycle of UPR.

We salute the presentation of a mid-term report by Ukraine on the implementation of the recommendations received during the first cycle. We consider it as an example of good practice in the UPR process.

We appreciate the general measures adopted in the last four years in order to ensure the enjoyment of human rights namely the ratification of important conventions on the area of human rights and the establishment of an Ombudsman institution.

We appreciate that fact that Ukraine undertook a series of steps concerning the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We welcome the adoption of the antidiscrimination legislation by the Ukrainian Parliament an important step in assuring the equality of all citizens.

Meanwhile problems seem to subsist in other areas namely the use of minority languages in public life and the education in the languages of national minorities.

Romania has therefore the following recommendations:

- We recommend the Ukrainian authorities to promote education in the languages of national minorities, including in the areas where the number of the students may be decreasing.
- We recommend Ukraine to fulfill its' commitments on the use of minority languages in justice, in both criminal and civil procedures.
- In order to ensure a general enjoyment of the right to an environment that is safe for life and health, we recommend the Ukrainian authorities to do its utmost to bring national legislation in line with the Espoo and Aarhus Convention.

Thank you very much.