

## GHANA STATEMENT AT UPR OF MALI

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Ghana commends the Government of Mali for presenting a comprehensive national report despite the institutional and political crises facing the country. We commend Mali for its efforts to implement the recommendations accepted in 2008 aimed at improving the human rights situation in the country. The establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the strengthening of the Office of the National Ombudsman are in the right direction, as they will greatly contribute to the establishment of, and respect for the rule of law in the country.

Mr. President,

Ghana particularly commends Mali for the steps taken to promote and protect women and children's rights, through legislation and joint action with countries in the sub-region to combat violence against women and children, child trafficking, eliminate child labour, and end the practice of FGM and discrimination.

Ghana however, recognises that much remains to be done and urges the international community to continue to provide Mali with the technical and financial support needed.

Thank you Mr. President.

Alexander Ben-Azoual