

**Statement by Romania
Working Group on UPR
- examination of Jordan – October 24, 2013 -**

Mr. President,

The delegation of Romania extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Jordan and thanks for the presentation of its second UPR report.

We would like to congratulate the Jordanian authorities for the comprehensive political reforms initiated in 2011, which translated into a number of significant measures, such as amending the Constitution, the creation of the Constitutional Court and of the Independent Election Commission, the adoption of a law on political parties, and of a new electoral law. We also believe that the numerous national strategies and policies that were launched in the past years clearly demonstrate, among others, the human rights focus of the reforming process.

As we believe that additional measures will consolidate the progress made so far, we would like to recommend the Government of Jordan the following actions: to ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; to consider the inclusion of "gender" among the criteria for discrimination.

As a final remark, we would like to commend the peaceful interreligious coexistence in Jordan, which can serve as a model for other countries, and the hospitality shown by the Jordanian Government and people by the hosting of more than 500,000 Syrian refugees.

Thank you, Mr. President.