

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL- WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW,
NINETEENTH SESSION (28 APRIL-9 MAY 2014) - SECOND CYCLE REVIEW - STATEMENT BY GHANA
DELIVERED BY MR EBENEZER APPREKU, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. AND DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE ON REVIEW OF COTE D'IVOIRE HELD ON TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2014

I thank you Mr President for giving me the floor.

Ghana welcomes the delegation of Cote d'Ivoire led by the Honourable Minister of Justice to this session and for the presentation. Ghana applauds the commitment of Cote d'Ivoire to the UPR mechanism. In keeping with this commitment, Ghana recommends that Cote d'Ivoire should continue measures to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Ghana welcomes the improvement in the security situation and economic recovery in Cote d'Ivoire and commends Government's ongoing efforts to speed up security sector reforms and the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programmes. We also welcome the establishment of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Ghana recommends to Cote d'Ivoire to expedite the requested visit by the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in order that the ongoing national reconciliation efforts will benefit from international assistance and cooperation. In this regard, Ghana further welcomes Cote d'Ivoire's ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court underscoring Cote d'Ivoire's commitment to the fight against impunity and wishes to stress the imperative to strengthen the national judicial system to ensure fair trials and to promote justice, accountability and peace.

Ghana will also recommend that Cote d'Ivoire should continue to take measures to create an enabling environment to sustain the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees wishing to return home and to facilitate their reintegration in accordance with the Tripartite Agreements Cote d'Ivoire has signed with five neighbouring and the UNHCR.

Finally, Ghana recommends that Cote d'Ivoire should consider ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to submit its Initial report to the Committee against Torture.

As new general elections approach in 2015, Ghana will recommend that Cote d'Ivoire leaves no stone unturned to address all outstanding electoral reform issues to guarantee free and fair elections.

The anticipated election year of 2015 will coincide with the 10 anniversary of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of its Summit Outcome document adopted in 2005. In the outcome document of 2005 world leaders unequivocally pledged to uphold their responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing which also finds expression in Article 4 of the African Union Constitutive Act which tries to strike a balance between the principle of non- interference and non- indifference in the context of the prevention of grave violation of human rights.

I thank you Mr President