

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 20TH SESSION OF THE WORKING
GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - STATEMENT
DELIVERED BY THE GHANA DELEGATION ON THE SECOND CYCLE
REVIEW OF EL SALVADOR MONDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2014**

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor to address the session

Ghana would like to welcome the distinguished delegation from El Salvador and commend their commitment to the UPR Mechanism.

We further applaud the drafting of the bill by the National AIDS Commission of El Salvador aimed at tackling discrimination and stigmatization attached to the HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as refocusing attention from it being a health problem to being one intrinsically linked to the development of the country. It is our hope that this bill is passed into law soon.

We reiterate the concerns raised by the Child Rights Committee in paragraphs 27, 30 and 31 of the UN Compilation regarding violence against children, child labour and the possible recruitment of children into gangs. Cognizant of the fact that El Salvador has ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child, we recommend that it intensifies efforts to eliminate, to a large extent, all possible forms of violence against children and to institute comprehensive policies that guarantee the rights of children including children with disabilities, irrespective of gender.

Ghana recommends that El Salvador submits its report that has been overdue since 2013 to the Committee against Torture.

Ghana would like to recommend that efforts leading to their ratification of the following are stepped up:

- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED)
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT)
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW)

Thank you, Mr. President