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21st Session of the UPR working group
Questions and Recommendations by Finland to Kyrgyzstan

19th January 2015

Mr President,

Finland welcomes this opportunity to engage in a dialogue on human rights with the Kyrgyz Republic and thanks for the comprehensive UPR Report.

Finland wishes to make the following two recommendations:

- Finland recommends Kyrgyzstan to ensure that any legislation on NGO's is fully in line with international human rights law, including freedom of expression and the freedom of association.

- Finland also recommends Kyrgyzstan to ensure that its legislation protects the rights of everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, minority status or any other basis, to freedom of expression and assembly, freedom from discrimination and equality before the law.

Finland welcomes Kyrgyzstan's engagement in developing rule of law in the country. We encourage Kyrgyzstan to continue its commitment to advance the rule of law and to ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process.

Finland is pleased to support Kyrgystan's Rule of Law project and in this context also the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We pay (special) attention to freedom of association, freedom of expression and situation of minorities and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups, such as women in rural areas, children, youth and persons with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan.

Draft laws on "Foreign Agent NGOs" and "Limiting information on non-traditional sexual orientations", which have recently been introduced in Kyrgyzstan, raise serious human rights concerns especially in relation to civil society space and the rights of LGBTI people. We wish to **inquire** Kyrgyzstan on the current status of the two draft legislations.