

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 22ND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE
DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF BELARUS
MONDAY 4 MAY 2015**

Thank you Mr. President for the opportunity to address this session.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Belarus to the second cycle of its review and commend them for the preparation of its national report. We have noted the strides made by Belarus towards the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and we recommend that effort in this regard are expedited.

Ghana particularly commends Belarus for the inclusion of "torture" in its criminal code as well as other changes in that regard in conformance with the provisions of ICCPR and CAT. Ghana recommends that Belarus ratifies the Optional Protocol to the CAT and we further encourage them to join the Group of Friends of the Convention against Torture Initiative (**CTI**) to share the country's experiences and to learn from the experiences of others.

Ghana would also wishes to make the following recommendations for the consideration of Belarus:

- Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (**ICRMW**)
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (**ICC**)
- Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- Submits its overdue report to the HR Committee
- Issue standing invitation to all special procedures.

Finally, Ghana recommends that Belarus sets up an independent National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

Mr. President, I thank you.