

**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 PANAMA
WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2015**

Thank you Mr. President

The delegation of Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation from Panama and applaud their commitment to the UPR process.

Ghana commends Panama for the creation of the Anti-Discrimination Unit, which deals with cases of racial discrimination against indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. We however, recommend that this is further enhanced through the adoption of legislation prohibiting discrimination on all grounds including racial and ethnic.

Ghana also considers the provision of legal assistance by the Office of Free Legal Aid to Crime Victims to women of violence irrespective of their socio-economic situation as a step in the right direction.

Ghana notes the various innovative steps taken by Panama in paragraph 39 of its National Report to render effective judicial services to handle expeditiously a backlog of cases that were hitherto pending.

Ghana acknowledges the enactment of Act No. 82 of 2013 which criminalises violence against women and the amendment of the Criminal Code to criminalise femicide, and recommends that this Act be strictly applied without delay.

Ghana further wishes to make the following recommendations for the consideration of Panama:

- Ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (**ICRMW**)
- Submit its overdue reports to the treaty bodies.
- Adopt measures to curb ill-treatment meted out by Police officers to persons deprived of their civil liberties.

Ghana wishes Panama a successful outcome to its second cycle UPR process.

Thank you Mr. President.