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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 23RD SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP
(2ND - 13TH NOVEMBER, 2015):**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
OF MYANMAR ON FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 2015**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR. JOSEPH
OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 2015**

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Myanmar and commends them for their continuous engagement with the UPR mechanism. The delegation of Ghana welcomes the ongoing reform process in Myanmar aimed at making the country more democratic. Ghana is also gratified to note that Myanmar has ratified the CRC and the CEDAW but is concerned about the torture and ill-treatment of ethnic minorities and religious groups by security forces.

As a member of the core group on the Convention Against Torture Initiative, Ghana welcomes the decision of Myanmar to join the CTI Group of friends and commends the Government for the steps being taken to ratify the CAT.

On this note, Ghana wishes to recommend that Myanmar ratify the following treaties:

- ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols
- Rome Statute of the ICC
- ICESCR
- International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination

Ghana further recommends to Myanmar to consider reviewing the new Media Law as well as the Printing and Publication Enterprise Law of 2014 to conform to international human rights standards in order to enhance freedom of speech in Myanmar.

In conclusion, Ghana wishes that the forthcoming general elections in Myanmar will be peaceful, free and fair, and also wishes Myanmar success in their UPR.

I thank you Mr. President.