

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 RWANDA ON WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER, 2015

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR. JOSEPH
OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER, 2015

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Rwanda to their second UPR. My delegation notes with appreciation the adoption of various pieces of legislations and policies in Rwanda aimed at promoting the freedom of speech, association, media and the protection of human rights defenders. We also commend Rwanda for having a very higher percentage of women representation in parliament.

Nonetheless, Ghana is concerned about reports that about 38% of children under the age of 5 suffer from malnutrition in Rwanda. My delegation recommends that Rwanda fulfils her obligations under this Covenant (ICESCR) by taking pragmatic steps to address the high malnutrition problem.

Mr. President,

Ghana is also concerned about reported allegations of arbitrary arrests, and maltreatment of detained persons at the Gikondo Transit Center. We recommend that the government of Rwanda investigate these allegations and bring the perpetrators to justice.

While we laud Rwanda's efforts to reform its media landscape, my delegation is concerned about reported cases of harassment of journalists critical of government. Ghana recommends that Rwanda takes further steps to promote greater media freedoms, including by ensuring that the Rwanda Media Commission becomes a more independent self-regulatory body.

In conclusion, Ghana recommends that Rwanda should consider ratifying the following treaties:

- The Rome Statute of the ICC;
- The International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances; and
- The first Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.

We wish Rwanda a successful UPR.

I thank you Mr. President.