

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 SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE ON WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 2015

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR. JOSEPH
OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 2015

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor

Ghana welcomes the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe to their second UPR cycle. We laud the establishment of the Counselling Centre in Sao Tome and Principe to address issues related to domestic violence, but wish to recommend that the government provide adequate resources to enable the Centre discharge its mandate more effectively.

Ghana welcomes the reported improvement in the registration of births in Sao Tome and Principe. However, Ghana is concerned that significant numbers of children still do not have birth certificates. The Delegation of Ghana therefore, wishes to recommend that Sao Tome and Principe redoubles national measures aimed at ensuring that every child in the country is issued with a birth certificate promptly at birth.

The delegation of Ghana further wishes to recommend to Sao Tome and Principe to take urgent steps to establish an independent national human rights institution (NHRI) free from governmental control, and in full compliance with the *Paris Principles*.

To conclude, Ghana wishes to recommend to Sao Tome and Principe to ratify the following treaties:

- The ICCPR and its first Optional Protocol allowing individual complaints;
- The Rome Statute on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- The Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT);
and
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

I thank you Mr. President.