**Human Rights Council**

**24th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Niger**

**January 18, 2016**

**Intervention by Ukraine**

Mr. President,

Ukraine is pleased to note the progress achieved by Niger in implementation of recommendations made during the first UPR cycle.

Niger has made significant advances in the ratification of human rights instruments and has strengthened its national legal and institutional framework to combat slavery and human trafficking. Ukraine welcomes Niger as the first country that signed the ILO protocol to the Forced Labour Convention against modern slavery.

Niger has made a number of practical steps in strengthening national human rights institutions. However there are still many challenges on its way to build a genuinely constitutional state.

**Ukraine would like to make the following recommendations:**

- to harmonize national laws with international regulations on rights of women and children;

- to continue facilitate free access to education for both boys and girls;

- to prevent different forms of danger for children such as life on the streets, domestic violence, child trafficking, child labour, armed conflict, sexual exploitation;

- to ban by law early and forced marriage as well as the practice of Wahaya;

- to intensify awareness-building among traditional and religious leaders to strictly observe the ban on female genital mutilation;

- to establish a national independent mechanism responsible for the inspection of detention centres;

- to eliminate overcrowding in prisons;

- to enact the law on abolishment of the death penalty, and, pending abolition, to maintain a de facto moratorium on executions;

- to ensure participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making and their equal representation in the governance of the country.

Thank you, Mr. President.