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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP  
(18<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016):**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW  
OF PARAGUAY ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR. JOSEPH  
OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016**

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Paraguay to this Session. Ghana lauds the steps taken by Paraguay since its last review to incorporate international and regional human rights treaties into the country's national legislation. We also welcome the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism as an independent body to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment in Paraguay.

Ghana is however concerned about alleged reports of harassment and killing of journalists and human rights defenders in Paraguay. We wish to encourage Paraguay to take steps to investigate these allegations and to bring all perpetrators to justice.

Ghana also wishes to make the following recommendations for the consideration of Paraguay:

- To ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education;
- To ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and
- To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ghana wishes Paraguay a successful review.

I thank you Mr. President