

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 25TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (2ND -13TH MAY, 2016)**

**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MRS. LAILA
HEWARD-MILLS, FIRST SECRETARY, AT THE SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF GREECE
TUESDAY 2ND MAY, 2016**

I thank you Mr. President,

Ghana warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Greece and commends them for their presence and participation in the second cycle review process.

Ghana has taken cognizance of the severe economic crisis that faced Greece recently and welcomes the steps taken by the Greek authorities to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis and the ensuing austerity measures on the economic, social and cultural rights of the most disadvantaged population groups.

Ghana also notes the pressure that Greece has been under as a result of the influx of migrants, especially from Africa and Syria. In this regard, Ghana commends the Hellenic Coast Guard for rescuing at sea more than 100,000 refugees and migrants. Ghana also commends the people of Greece, in particular the inhabitants of the Eastern Aegean Greek islands, and the competent Greek authorities for the hospitality, solidarity and assistance extended to huge numbers of refugees and migrants, in particular women and children, who have arrived on the shores of Greece after a perilous sea-crossing.

Ghana wishes to recommend to Greece to:

1. Ratify the ICRMW and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
2. Investigate all cases of xenophobia violence and attacks against migrants, including the involvement of law enforcement officers in such crimes.
3. Address the discrimination faced by persons with disabilities with regards to access to education, employment and healthcare services
4. Decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that is in accordance with international standards;
5. Finalize as soon as possible the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children and
6. Take necessary steps for the implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework, with a view to combating effectively trafficking in persons, identifying victims, providing them with all necessary assistance and support and prosecuting traffickers.

Ghana wishes Greece a successful outcome to this review process.

I thank you Mr President.