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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 26TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP (31ST OCTOBER – 11TH NOVEMBER, 2016)**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF HAITI ON 7TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY**

**ALEXANDER BEN-ACQUAAH, MINISTER COUNSELLOR**

I thank you, Mr. President.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Haiti to this UPR session and congratulates them for the presentation of their report. Ghana notes with satisfaction, the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Human Rights Committee by the government of Haiti to promote human rights. We commend efforts in increasing the size of the Haitian police force as a way of providing jobs for citizens in accordance with SDG 8 on Decent work and economic growth.

Ghana welcomes the reform of the justice system of Haiti to ensure its proper functioning and to improve access to justice. Ghana encourages Haiti to expedite action on the establishment of the national legal aid system to enable more citizens have access to legal representation and justice.

Ghana acknowledges the strides made by Haiti to construct new prisons that meet international standards and provide favourable conditions of habitation for inmates despite the limited resources available. We welcome the Strategic Development Plan, which makes provision for early childhood education to eradicate illiteracy and promote gender equality in education.

However, Ghana is concerned about the alleged continued subjection of women and girls to widespread gender discrimination and mistreatment, and recommend that the government of Haiti implements, strictly, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and accede to its Optional Protocol.

Finally, Ghana recommends that Haiti ratifies the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and accede to its optional Protocol.

I thank you, Mr. President.