**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 SYRIA ON MONDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY JONATHAN MAGNUSEN, MINISTER CONSULAR, PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA**

I thank you, Mr. President.

Ghana welcomes the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to this second cycle review process and commend them for the comprehensive national report.

Ghana **recommends** the following for the consideration of the Syrian Arab Republic:

1. Allow independent access to United Nations entities, including the OHCHR, to all areas to enable them monitor the prevailing human rights situations.
2. Repeal all discriminatory provisions in the Personal Status Code and ensuring equality of rights between men and women.
3. Take all necessary measures to avoid the bombing of medical units, respect the principle of medical neutrality and grant special protection to medical units allowed by international law
4. Grant unimpeded access to humanitarian personnel to populations in need of assistance.
5. Prohibit and prevent torture in all its forms, particularly, of children and end alleged human rights violations committed by security forces and armed groups.
6. Prohibit early and forced marriages.
7. Issue standing invitations to all special procedure mandate holders.

Ghana notes that the imposition of economic sanctions and the current conflict situation have seriously impaired the ability of Syrian civilians to earn a living, giving rise to parallel economies rooted in opportunism, extortion and the denial of fundamental human rights.

We join the international community in encouraging the government to continue the UN-backed dialogue towards resolving the conflict, in order to ensure the protection and enhancement of the living conditions of the Syrian population.

Ghana wishes Syria a successful review process.

I thank you, Mr. President.