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**Human Rights Council**

**26th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Venezuela**

**November 1st, 2016**

**Intervention by Ukraine**

**Mr. President,**

  Ukraine welcomes the presentation by Venezuela of the National report that reflects certain progress achieved in human rights sphere since the last review.

We share concerns expressed by many delegations regarding the situation on the ground, in particular those related to the protection of the rights to work, food, highest achievable standards of health, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, ensuring protection of the rights of defenders, representatives of civil society and journalists.

Ukraine recommends to Venezuela to:

- step up efforts to prevent discrimination and violence against women and girls;

- issue a standing invitation to the HRC Special Procedures;

- ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Ukraine also strongly encourages the Government of Venezuela to obey the UN Charter and to show respect to its principles in particular those related to the Member States’ territorial integrity.

**Thank you.**