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**Human Rights Council**

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

**Review of Zimbabwe**

**November 2, 2016**

**Intervention by Ukraine**

**Mr. President,**

Recognizing the efforts made by the Government of Zimbabwe since the 1st UPR cycle, first of all the commendable adoption of a new Constitution with an expansive Declaration of Rights as well as ratification of a number of treaties, we have to acknowledge that many significant challenges still remain.

There is credible evidence that the police and intelligence service continue to use excessive force against peaceful demonstrators, torture and other ill-treatment against arrested or detainees.

We note with regret that the Gender Commission and National Peace and Reconciliation Commission were not operational, while the Anti-Corruption Commission did not have adequate funding or technical capacity. Limited funding and a restricted mandate have impinged upon the effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission as well.

Ukraine would like to make following **recommendations**:

1. To cease ungrounded arrests and detentions as well as excessive force, torture, intimidation and harassment, interference and anti-protest discrimination;

2. To guarantee full enjoyment of the right of freedom of expression and association;

3. To enact specific laws and policies in order to protect the human rights defenders.

**Thank you.**