**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Morocco**

**27th Session, May 2, 2017**

Thank you Mr. Vice President. The United States welcomes the Moroccan delegation.

The United States is encouraged by the progress made by Morocco in expanding implementation of human rights training for security and justice sector officials. We note the decline in reports of torture and improved prison conditions.

We are concerned that mechanisms to investigate abuse and corruption, including in the security forces, may be insufficient. We are concerned by some limitations on the full exercise of freedoms of expression and association.

Bearing in mind these concerns, we recommend that Morocco:

1. End prosecution and release journalists and other individuals detained solely for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association.
2. Conduct full, impartial and independent investigations into all allegations of corruption or abuse by security forces and prosecute those responsible where appropriate.
3. Approve the license applications for all non-governmental associations seeking registration in accordance with the law, including organizations advocating for members of minority populations.

Thank you Mr. Vice President.