**STATEMENT BY GHANA DELIVERED BY AKOSUA D. OKYERE BADOO,**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, DURING THE 44TH**

**SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP ON TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. President.

Ghana extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Azerbaijan to the 4th UPR Cycle and thanks them for their national report.

My delegation commends the efforts made to promote and protect human rights in Azerbaijan since the adoption of the previous UPR, particularly improvement in prison conditions, reforms of the judiciary and legal system and upholding of women’s rights.

We further welcome the adoption of the national action plan to combat domestic violence as well as the national action plan to combat human trafficking.

To further consolidate democracy and respect for rule of law in Azerbaijan, Ghana offers the following recommendations:

1. **Take steps to cease restrictions on the right to freedom of assembly in line with international laws; and**
2. **Strengthen measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women including through the effective implementation of legislation to ensure justice for victims.**

In conclusion, Ghana wishes Azerbaijan every success with the review process.

I thank you.