**Statement by Romania**

**The 44th session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Azerbaijan**

**November 14th, 2023**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Azerbaijan’s delegation and wishes it a successful outcome of the UPR.

We take note with appreciation of the **notable increase in women who had been elected during the municipal elections held in December 2019 (38.8 per cent)**. On a different plan, we welcome the adoption of the **Media Law in 2021, which aims at strengthening the freedom of the press in Azerbaijan**.

We would like to constructively recommend Azerbaijan to:

1. **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.**
2. Take appropriate measures to **guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.**
3. **Strengthen the capacity of the Anti-Corruption Department and law enforcement agencies to combat corruption in all sectors**.

Thank you, Mr. President!