**STATEMENT BY GHANA DELIVERED BY H.E EMMANUEL ANTWI, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, DURING THE 44TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA**

Madam Vice President,

Ghana welcomes the delegation of Cuba to the UPR process and thank them for the presentation of their national report.

We applaud the continuous effort made by Cuba to strengthen and improve the legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and further commend Cuba for the adoption of a new constitution in 2019 that aims to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights of all Cubans.

Ghana makes the following recommendations to Cuba:

1. **Consider acceding to the OP-CAT;**
2. **Mainstream a gender perspective in all policies and strategies to combat racial discrimination against women of African descent; and**
3. **Consider declaring a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolish it in future.**

We wish Cuba every success with the review process.

I thank you.