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**46th session of Working Group on Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Eritrea**

*(7 May 2024)*

**Intervention by Ukraine**

 *(Speaking time: 1 min 10, 203 words)*

**Thank you, Mr Vice President,**

Ukraine thanks the delegation of Eritrea for the presentation of its national report.

We are deeply concerned that Eritrea remains a state with one of the most problematic human rights records on the African continent. Serious challenges persist related to upholding the rule of law, continuing militarization of society, protection of fundamental freedoms, widespread sexual and gender-based violence.

We are particularly worried about Eritrea’s close cooperation with other states that engage in gross and systemic violations of human rights and its condonation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

We encourage Eritrea to redouble the efforts to address the underlying challenges and **recommend**:

* to put an end to the practice of torture and ill-treatment;
* to intensify efforts for investigation of all credible allegations of crimes and human rights violations committed by Eritrean armed forces in the context of the conflict in Ethiopia and take concrete measures to ensure the access to justice for all victims and accountability for all perpetrators;
* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty, and take appropriate legislative measures to abolish the death penalty.

**I thank you.**