**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Cote d’Ivoire,**

**47th Session, November 5, 2024**

**Delivered by Ambassador Michèle Taylor**

* Thank you, Mr. President.
* The United States welcomes the delegation from Cote d’Ivoire.  We commend Cote d’Ivoire for peacefully reintegrating returned Ivoirian refugees following the cessation of their prima facie refugee status in 2022. This demonstrates Cote d’Ivoire’s commitment to reconciliation. We remain concerned about suppression of independent media and increasing discrimination and violence against LGBTQI+ individuals.
* In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that Cote d’Ivoire:
1. Protect the rights to freedom of expression, speech, and peaceful assembly.
2. Investigate allegations of harassment and violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons and prosecute the perpetrators as appropriate.
3. Ensure that the rule of law is applied equally to all citizens, regardless of political affiliation, including by the removal of undue regulatory obstacles preventing citizens from voting.
4. Invest in the penitentiary system to reduce overcrowding and improve respect for human rights in prisons.
* I thank you.