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**Human Rights Council**

**28th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Guatemala**

**November 8, 2017**

**Intervention by Ukraine**

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine welcomes the delegation of Guatemala and thanks for the presentation of the National report.

We would like to commend the efforts of the Government of Guatemala aimed at human rights institutional system reforming, including the adoption of the Institutional Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 and the extension of the National Reparations Programme to 2023. The open cooperation of the Government of Guatemala with the UN human rights mechanisms should be positively noted.

It is also worthy to mention the signing of a technical cooperation agreement between the governments of Guatemala and Paraguay for the installation of a recommendation follow-up system SIMORE in May this year.

At the same time we have to express concern on the reports of persistent attacks and threats against human rights defenders and journalists, in particular those belonging to indigenous peoples, as well as lack of sufficient accountability for serious human rights violations committed during the internal armed conflict, especially the massacres, acts of torture and enforced disappearance.

We **recommend** to the Government of Guatemala:

- to strengthen the protection measures for human rights defenders, taking due account of gender and cultural aspects;

- to continue the policy agenda to strengthen the specialized justice system to protect women;

- to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

**Thank you.**