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**Human Rights Council**

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

**Review of Zambia**

**November 13, 2017**

**Intervention by Ukraine**

**Mr. President,**

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

Recognizing the efforts made by the Government since the 2nd UPR cycle, we have to acknowledge that many significant challenges still remain.

We welcome the adoption of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act 2016 containing, inter alia, important provisions on non-discrimination. At the same time, we regret that the national referendum in 2016 on a new Bill of Rights failed, thus the Constitution-amending process remained incomplete.

Reportedly, the pre- and post-election periods (in 2016) were marked by restrictions on press freedom and political intolerance, resulting in increased violence across the country. The practice of prosecution of those exercising their legal right to freedom of assembly and expression as well as politically motivated arrests raises concerns.

We emphasize the necessity to implement all recommendations and voluntary pledges accepted by Zambia during the previous Reviews and **recommend** to the Government of Zambia:

- to take necessary public and legislative steps in order to abolish death penalty;

- to intensify efforts on the development of legal framework aimed at elimination of discrimination based on sex, race, disability, status or any other ground.

**Thank you.**