**UPR 28, November 15, 2017**

**Recommendations by Canada for Ukraine’s UPR**

Thank you Mr. President,

Canada congratulates Ukraine on the adoption of its National Human Rights Strategy in 2015, which aims to improve the protection of rights and freedoms throughout Ukraine.

Canada recommends that Ukraine:

1. Fully implement the reforms necessary to establish an independent, effective and transparent judicial system that would not only strengthen Ukraine’s capacity to fight corruption, but would also establish an overarching framework for upholding the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms.
2. Follow the recommendations made by the OHCHR regarding the human rights situation in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, particularly with respect to due process, the treatment of prisoners and detainees, and gender-based and sexual violence.
3. Fully implement its 2015 National Human Rights Strategy, including with respect to protecting the rights of IDPs; ending discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation through the ratification of the Istanbul Convention; and addressing hate crimes through a strengthened criminal justice framework.

Since the last Universal Periodic Review of Ukraine in 2012, it has taken concrete steps to improve its adherence to international human rights standards. In addition to the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy, Canada congratulates Ukraine on the increased importance that has been placed on gender equality, which now falls under the responsibility of a Vice Prime Minister.