*Check against delivery*

**37th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Review of Sao Tome and Principe**

**Intervention by Delegation of Ukraine**

***January 27, 2021***

**Madame President,**

Ukraine thanks Sao Tome and Principe for the presentation of its National Report.

 We welcome steps aimed at ensuring progress in health, education, social policies, legislative reform, ratification of relevant conventions, as well as implementation of important measures in fighting against climate change and eliminating discrimination against women.

At the same time, there are concerns about prevailing practice of early marriage and child labour, as well as reported cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities including their limited access to social services and facilities.

We present the following **recommendations**:

- to intensify the process of ratification of the core international human rights instruments;

- to consolidate human rights policies within the framework of a comprehensive national strategy;

- to make the necessary steps to develop and implement national policies to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;

- to create effective mechanism to prevent gender-based violence;

- to ensure accountability for human rights violations through independent investigations and prosecution, and access to justice as well as full reparation for victims;

- to guarantee free public education for all.

We wish the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe a successful review and further progress in promotion and protection of human rights.

**I thank you.**