**37th session of the UPR Working group: Lebanon**

**January 18th, 2021**

**Intervention by Romania**

Madam President,

Romania welcomes the delegation from Lebanon to the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of the national report.

We commend the positive developments since the previous cycle such as, inter-alia, the adoption, in 2017, of the law that makes torture a criminal offence, the approval of the Strategic Plan for the protection of women and children (2020-2027) and of the Sectorial Plan on Child Trafficking.

Also, we commend the attempts made to fully abolish the death penalty.

Expressing our concern over the reports of growing harassment and intimidation of journalists, media professionals, bloggers, human rights defenders and activists, we would like to underline that adherence to international human rights obligations cannot be selective.

Thus, while encouraging the Government of Lebanon to fully implement its international human rights commitments and to ensure that they are properly enforced and respected, Romania would like to make the following recommendations:

* to continue advancing towards the complete abolition of the death penalty;
* to continue the necessary steps to consistently implement the anti-torture law;
* to strengthen the efforts aimed at combating the violence against women;
* to continue thoroughly investigating reports of violence, harassment and intimidation of journalists, media professionals, bloggers, human rights defenders and activists and take appropriate measures;

Finally, we wish Lebanon a successful review.

I thank you.