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**40th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review of the**

 **UN Human Rights Council**

**Review of Venezuela**

**Intervention by Delegation of Ukraine**

*January 25, 2022*

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine thanks Venezuela for presenting its National Report.

Among the positives we wish to note the establishment of OHCHR presence in the country, which we hope will contribute to resolving serious challenges it faces in the field of human rights.

In order to also contribute to this process Ukraine wishes to recommend the following:

1. To duly investigate all allegations of excessive use of force by security forces, arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions, torture and other grave violations of human rights;
2. To provide enabling democratic environment for activities of political opposition, journalists and human rights defenders;
3. To take all the necessary steps to ensure free and fair electoral process;
4. To ratify the CAT-OP *(Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)* and CED *(the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance);*
5. To extend standing invitation to all HRC special procedures;
6. To ensure independence of the NHRI and its acquisition of the highest accreditation status.

**Thank you.**