**U.S. Statement on Togo**

**at the Universal Periodic Review 40th Session**

**As delivered by Patrick Elliot, Human Rights Officer**

The United States warmly welcomes the Togolese delegation to Geneva.

We recommend that Togo:

1. Ensure law enforcement officers receive annual training on respect for human rights, particularly international and national law restrictions against the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of persons in custody.
2. Take measures to ensure that political prisoners’ constitutional rights are respected and allow humanitarian and human rights organizations access to these prisoners to monitor their welfare.
3. Protect the right to freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly regardless of political belief or affiliation.

We commend the Togolese government’s effort to hold a political dialogue with opposition parties following the 2020 presidential elections to consider modifications to the electoral code and opportunities to improve future electoral processes.

Thank you.