**GEORGIA**

**THE 40th SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**UPR OF BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

**Geneva, 25 January 2022**

Madame President,

We remain concerned with the dire situation of human rights in Venezuela, which is a result of years of corruption political conflict and repression. My delegation continues to call on the authorities in control to respect the constitutional mechanisms of the country in order to guarantee the rule of law.

Therefore, Georgia recommends to Venezuela:

* To issue a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders;
* To guarantee freedom of expression;
* To ratify OPCAT;
* To reverse its decision to withdraw from the American Convention on Human Rights.
* Fully cooperate with the FFM, including by granting its team unrestricted access to the country.
* Undertake independent investigations into all cases of human rights violations.
* To take steps towards ensuring a peaceful solution to the existing crisis, leading to free and fair elections.

Thank you