**Statement by Romania**

**The 40th session of the UPR Working Group: Review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**January 25th, 2022**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Venezuela’s delegation and appreciates its involvement in the UPR process.

Noting the economic, political and social difficulties that impacted significantly the overall human rights situation in Venezuela since the last UPR in 2016, we nevertheless appreciate Venezuela’s engagement with OHCHR, the legal steps and measures taken for advancing in ensuring the respect of the right to personal liberty and towards strengthening the national dialogue and we encourage their further improvement and implementation.

Romania would like to recommend Venezuela to:

1. Speed up the process of developing of a new and sound national human rights plan for the cycle 2020-2025 that takes into account the progress and loopholes identified during the implementation of the previous one;
2. Implement the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the period 2021–2025, thus developing a comprehensive policy in the area of trafficking in women, children and adolescents and smuggling of migrants;
3. Undertake legal and administrative measures in view of addressing the recommendations made for ensuring the freedom of expression, opinion and association, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceful demonstration, the rights to food and education, as well as the public access to health services and medicines.

We wish Venezuela’s delegation a successful outcome of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President!