**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Ecuador**

**41st Session, November 7, 2022**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the Ecuadorian delegation.

We recommend that Ecuador:

1. Allocate additional resources to increase security and social services in prisons.
2. Pass a new communications law that promotes freedom of expression without undue restrictions, based on President Lasso’s partial veto of the restrictive July 2022 version of the 2013 Organic Communications Law.
3. Amend Presidential Decree 193 to ensure that speech critical of the government has no bearing on civil society groups’ ability to operate freely.

We remain concerned that prison gangs frequently riot and commit acts of violence; a Correa-era communications law threatens press freedom by regulating and sanctioning the media; and policies remain in place that could enable the government to dissolve civil society organizations for engaging in political activities, to possibly include political speech.

We commend Ecuador’s support for individual political rights and democracy and the premium President Lasso’s administration has placed on the protection of human rights at the core of his policies.

I thank you.