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

**41st Session, November 9, 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

The United States welcomes the distinguished high-level delegation from Finland led by Foreign Minister Haavisto.  We commend Finland’s longstanding commitment to protecting and promoting human rights domestically and globally.

We recommend that Finland:

1. Ensure proper and timely investigation and access to justice, including strengthening judicial procedures for trafficking in persons and gender-based violence related crimes.
2. Review and strengthen current policies and initiatives to combat societal discrimination against members of racial, religious, and ethnic minority groups, including providing an exemption for religious minorities in the draft Animal Welfare legislation.
3. Improve access for persons with disabilities to public information and transportation and ensure effective legal protection against discrimination and exploitation in the labor market.

We wish Finland a very successful UPR and look forward to continued collaboration with our neighbors at the HCR.  I thank you.