**Statement by Romania**

**The 41st session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Ecuador**

**November 7th, 2022**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Ecuador’s delegation and its UPR report.

We appreciate Ecuador’s efforts in advancing the national human rights legal and policy framework since the previous examination cycle, such as the legislative amendments, administrative measures and programmes undertaken for ensuring, among others, a better protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situation and those linked to the environment and its conservation. Ecuador’s openness to multilateralism and engagement with OHCHR and special procedures as well as the 2021–2025 Opportunity Creation Plan are commendable. The implementation process remains nevertheless challenging.

Romania would like to recommend Ecuador to:

1. Adopt and implement legislative measures and policies for fostering a gender equality culture guaranteeing the reduction of violence against women and girls, the end of femicide phenomenon, women’s access to political representation and decision making and their empowerment through education and labour opportunities programs;
2. Undertake legal reforms and administrative measures in view of ensuring that freedoms of expression, opinion, association and the right to peaceful assembly are in line with international standards and best practices;
3. Build an enabling environment for civil society, including by considering the adoption of a comprehensive legal framework for CSOs, human rights defenders and journalists.
4. Adopt adequate measures in view of reducing the deadly violence in the penitentiary system.

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

Thank you, Mr. President!