**Statement by Romania**

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

**November 8th, 2022**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Morocco’s delegation and thanks it for the report.

We congratulate Morocco for its election as a member of the Human Rights Council/HRC and reassure it of our full support, as we will share the membership during the same HRC term.

We appreciate Morocco’s efforts in advancing the national human rights legal and policy framework since the previous examination cycle, including through strengthening institutional framework and strategic planning in the area of human rights, such as the adoption of the National Action Plan for democracy and human rights (2018-2021). The implementation process remains nevertheless essential.

Romania would like to recommend Morocco to:

1. Implement previously received recommendations in view of ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and signing the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
2. Revise the Family Code in order to guarantee that women’s discrimination during procedures linked to inheritance, divorce and legal guardianship of minor children could be banned and legally fought against;
3. Undertake legal reforms and administrative measures in view of ensuring that freedom of expression, opinion and association are in line with international standards and best practices and that CSOs, human rights defenders and journalists enjoy an enabling environment;
4. Adopt a strategy aiming at protecting individuals, especially children and youth against hate speech, fake news and digital violence;
5. Formalize the *de facto* moratorium on death penalty while further considering the possibility of its abolition.

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

Thank you, Mr. President!