

**CLOSING STATEMENT OF GHANA DURING THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**DELIVERED BY**

**HONOURABLE GODFRED YEBOAH DAME, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**GENEVA, 24TH JANUARY 2023**

**Mr. President,**

**Members of the Council,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegations,**

**Colleagues,**

**Members of Civil Society Organisations,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the entire Ghana delegation, I thank you all for actively participating in Ghana’s fourth UPR, and for acknowledging Ghana’s efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

1. May I once again express our appreciation to Eritrea, Georgia and Malaysia for their commitment to compile the Working Group report as members of the Troika. We further express our gratitude to the Secretariat for its guidance and support, and the impeccable organisation of this review.
2. Generally, your invaluable comments and recommendations will guide us in our continued efforts to ensure full and effective implementation of human rights instruments, policies and initiatives for the benefit of our people. The various interventions from a significant number of delegations during this review are very encouraging and show a keen interest in Ghana’s human rights development. They will motivate us to advance our efforts to boost the human rights regime for the benefit of the people of Ghana. We also appreciate the candid manner in which the feedback was given on areas that require improvement.
3. I am confident that you will all agree with me that attaining a perfect human rights record is an exercise in progress, and that no Member State can claim perfection. However, we go back home confident about the credentials of Ghana as a strong democratic nation with a formidable reputation in the protection of human rights and freedoms of all persons and with an independent and fearless Judiciary ready to provide a remedy for abuses.
4. We will not be complacent but aspire to achieve more in order to make Ghana the most peaceful place to be in the entire world. There is a need to encourage responsible and effective human rights advocacy by Government, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) hinged on the principle of reinforcing consensus, recognizing permissible limits to freedoms and human rights, and remembering that the goal is to ultimately enable the citizenry determine their own future in dignity and independence.

**Mr. President,**

1. We will defer our position on the recommendations received here today to allow for adequate and broader consultations to enable us provide informed responses, which will be submitted in due course.

Once again, I thank you Mr. President for your great leadership.

God bless us all!!

**Thank you.**

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