**Statement by Romania**

**The 42nd session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Argentina**

**January 23rd, 2023**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Argentina’s delegation and wishes it a successful outcome of the UPR.

Before constructively address our recommendations, we would like to warmly thank his Excellency, ambassador Villegas, for his agile stewardship as HRC president throughout last year.

We commend Argentina’s positive developments since the last UPR, including the development of the National Plan against Discrimination 2021–2024 and the progress in the areas of gender equality and women’s rights. Yet, discriminatory practices continue to exist particularly in the case of women, exposed to multiple forms and economic discrimination and with regard to their political participation.

We would like to recommend Argentina to:

1. Continue implementing the National Action Plan for Combating Gender-Based Violence in order to reduce the femicide cases and adapt the judicial system to the needs of victims of gender-based violence, while simultaneously provide specific budget for free specialized legal aid for women;
2. Ensure equal access to good-quality inclusive education for children undergoing alternative forms of education through comprehensive measures addressing existing differences between provinces;
3. Implement the National Plan against Discrimination and revise it in order to include new objectives aiming at strengthening public policies and programmes on the prevention and eradication of hate speech, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination at all State levels, including through strengthening public officials’ training and education campaigns in schools.

Thank you, Mr. President!