**Statement by Romania**

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

**January 24th, 2023**

Mr. President,

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

Despite many systemic challenges that still need to be tackled, we’ve taken note with appreciation that Gabon had continued its cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms and made efforts to improve the situation of women and girls through some legislative or administrative measures, for instance with regard to the access to health care or the labour market, the punishment of sexual and psychological harassment or the increase to 18 the minimum age for marriage for women.

We would like to constructively recommend Gabon to:

1. Adopt under civil and administrative law framework a definition of discrimination against women, in accordance with CEDAW article 1, encompassing direct and indirect discrimination, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination;
2. Establish a National Action Plan to deal with Child, Early and Forced Marriage providing an integrated vision, a monitoring system and clear targets and directions to all involved sectors, including child trafficking and child labor.
3. Strengthen the measures aimed at realizing the importance of girls’ education at all levels and of eliminating the violence and sexual behavior in school environments and implement the existing Education Act in order inter alia to ban the corporal punishment.

Thank you, Mr. President!