**Statement by Romania**

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

**January 24th, 2023**

Mr. President,

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

Despite the challenges that Ghana encounters in enhancing human rights’ protection, we commend the significant efforts and achievements that had been made with the adoption of important national policies and legislation in areas of child protection, domestic violence, cybersecurity or the right to education and school enrolment.

We would like to constructively recommend Ghana to:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and develop a national action plan on children’s rights that would inform budgetary decision-making and reflect priorities, indicators and targets to improve the well-being of children, with an emphasis on the protection against all forms of abuse, elimination of child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and violence;
2. Expedite the procedures for adoption and implementation of the Affirmative Action Bill on gender equality and ensure the full implementation of the 2007 Domestic Violence Act in particular the operationalization of the Domestic Violence Support Fund;
3. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR/International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and expedite the legislative process aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr. President!