**Statement by Romania**

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

**January 30th, 2023**

Mr. President,

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

We appreciate policy and legal reforms carried out or planned by Zambia, such as the strengthening of its health system through the development of the national health strategic plan and the increase of health expenditure or the various human rights education courses and training on matters relating to gender and its mainstreaming in institutions.

Yet, many challenges need to be tackled and we would like to constructively recommend Zambia to:

1. Explicitly recognize the right to adequate food in national legislation and adopt a human rights-based framework law on the right to food, with benchmarks and implementation plans and a special focus on supporting women farmers with additional incentives, access to credit and other agricultural resources;
2. Undertake the necessary reforms to ensure the inclusion in the Bill of Rights, of the economic, social and cultural rights, environmental rights, specific rights for persons with disabilities, older persons and other marginalized and vulnerable groups and an explicit prohibition of the death penalty;
3. Strengthen measures to eradicate all forms of violence against children, ensure that all cases were promptly reported, investigated and prosecuted, that remedies and support were provided to victims and the perpetrators were sanctioned, conduct awareness-raising to combat the stigmatization of children victims of sexual abuse.

Thank you, Mr. President!