**Concluding remarks by the Head of Romania’s delegation, the State Secretary, Mr Traian Hristea**

**Mr. Vice-president,**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for this enriching and candid exchange. Your presence and your interventions are a testament of your commitment to human rights’ protection, fulfillment and promotion. We take recommendations made here today very seriously and our position on each of them will be thoroughly weighted.

Before expressing our thanks to all those who took part in our review, I would like to highlight how the process for **coordinating the implementation of UPR recommendations** is currently working for us.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acting as a coordinator, is facilitating the dissemination of the recommendations to the domestic institutions, for decision on their support, for implementation, for follow-up.

Starting with 2020, we have developed a partnership with the European Institute in Romania for the translation into Romanian of UN documents. The Matrix of recommendations received by Romania during the 3rd UPR cycle was one of the first translated documents. To follow-up the implementation by our national institutions, ministries, agencies, we used the mid-term review tool, allowing us to identify those fields or themes that needed amplifying efforts. The mid-term report functioned not only as a scoreboard, but also helped to streamline the drafting of our national report and afforded more room for a more articulated presentation on the gradually achieved progress. As such, we acknowledge the advantages of the mid-term report and would encourage its broader use.

This process, in its core elements, is the formula we also use for other reporting exercises, at universal and regional level. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is partnering with the domestic institution competent for the particular category of rights – or for the rights of a particular category of beneficiaries – and co-coordinates the drafting work. As such, both at our level, and at the level of each institution, we verify the streamlining and updating of information provided.

As no reporting exercise is complete without the input from the civil society, we appeal to two forms of such consultation – first and foremost, the relevant institutions have constant consultation and develop cooperation and partnership with civil society’s organisations.

This is by far the most valuable form of interaction. At the other end of the cycle, the final draft can also be put in public consultation.

The 4th UPR cycle is intended as a moment to take stock, assess the implementation of recommendations received in previous cycles; as such, it will also instigate us to weigh up the possible improvement on the substance, as well as on the process of implementation and follow-up.

I will conclude by expressing our hope that your questions were answered; for our part, we will recheck and revert to you, in writing, in case some elements were not fully addressed. I thank you all for your participation.