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**43rd session of Working Group on Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Mali**

*(2 May 2023)*

**Intervention by Ukraine**

 *(Speaking time: 1 min. 10 sec.)*

**Mr President,**

Ukraine welcomes the delegation of Mali and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

The efforts made by the Government of Mali since the 3rd UPR cycle to strengthen its national human rights framework are noteworthy. Nevertheless, the problems of the use of the death penalty, gender-based violence, crimes against civilians in the context of the ongoing armed conflict are still relevant for Mali.

We are particularly worried about systemic and grave human rights violations, committed by the Russian mercenary Wagner Group in Mali as well as in my country, Ukraine.

We encourage Mali to continue with further work and would like to **recommend**:

* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty, and take appropriate measures to abolish the death penalty;
* to adopt additional measures to promote and protect the rights of children as well as to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
* to ensure the access to justice for all victims of the conflict and accountability for all perpetrators of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law;
* to redouble ongoing efforts for bringing the national legislation into line with international human rights standards.

Ukraine wishes Mali a successful review.

**I thank you.**