**UPR 29, January 24, 2018**

**Recommendations by Canada for Serbia’s UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes positive steps taken by Serbia, including upholding the right to free assembly and expression by permitting four consecutive Belgrade Pride Marches from 2014-2017.

Canada recommends that Serbia:

1. Take steps to improve judicial independence by limiting the scope for political influence over judicial appointments.

2. Take steps to ensure conditions for the full exercise of freedom of expression, including by: (i) ensuring effective investigation and prosecution of alleged threats and attacks on journalists, and (ii) ensuring equal opportunity for all media to access funding available from government sources.

3. Take measures to strengthen the rule of law, including through a full and public enquiry into police and municipal authorities’ alleged involvement in the so-called Belgrade Waterfront night-time demolitions or “Savamala” case in the city centre in April 2016.

We are concerned by the Serbian Defence Minister’s public praise of Vladimir Lazarevic, convicted by ICTY of war crimes, and the fact that Mr. Lazarevic was recently allowed to teach at the Military Academy in Belgrade, which undermines efforts to provide justice for war crimes and end impunity.