**UPR 30**

**Review of Azerbaijan**

**Statement by Greece**

Thank you Mr President,

Greece would like to welcome the delegation of Azerbaijan to the 30th session of the UPR Working Group.

We take note of some positive steps that were taken, such as the country visits that took place during the period under review. However, many challenges remain.

**Greece would like to submit the following recommendations to Azerbaijan:**

1. To ensure full respect for freedom of expression in line with its international commitments, including by ensuring that all journalists may work freely and without fear of retribution, allowing foreign media broadcasts without undue restrictions and ensuring unfettered access to the country for journalists and ending the travel restrictions against independent journalists, NGO leaders and opposition members
2. To thoroughly investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment of detainees and hold perpetrators accountable.
3. To fully cooperate with, respond to, and follow the recommendations of the UN HCHR, the HRC, the CAT, and all HRC special procedure mandate holders
4. To extend a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers to undertake fact-finding country visits with respect to the situation of judiciary and legal professions in the country.

We would like to seize this opportunity to wish to the Delegation of Azerbaijan all the best in implementing the recommendations they will receive today.

I thank you