**UPR 31, November 5, 2018**

**Recommendations by Canada for Saudi Arabia’s UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada is gravely concerned by the extrajudicial killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. All states must respect the right to life, promote and protect freedom of expression, ensure the safety of all its citizens, including journalists, and promptly respond to alleged violations.

Canada recommends that Saudi Arabia:

1. Conduct a thorough, credible, transparent, and prompt investigation into the death of Jamal Kashoggi.
2. Build upon efforts towards greater gender equality, including by removing barriers under the guardianship system.
3. Protect the freedom of expression of all human rights defenders, and foster an environment which is conducive to open debate, tolerant of dissenting voices, and protects individuals against retribution.
4. Work with other implicated parties to facilitate a permanent and peaceful end to the conflict in Yemen.
5. Remove provisions in the 2017 counter-terrorism law that call for incommunicado detention.

Canada takes note of the steps taken by Saudi Arabia to implement the national strategy on gender equality and encourages continued efforts to address all barriers impeding women’s full and equal participation in public, political and family life.