**The 31stSession of the UPR Working Group**

**Monday, 5 November 2018**

**Review of Saudi Arabia**

**Intervention by Romania**

Thankyou Mr. President.

Romania thanks the delegation of Saudi Arabia for its participation in the UPR process and for the informative presentation of the national report on the situation of the human rights in the country.

We welcome the significant reforms aimed at improving the situation of women, including the lift of the driving ban and the recent concession of custody of the children to divorced women. We also take note of the recent visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights to Saudi Arabia.

While appreciating the Saudi legislation adopted to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, such as the labour law of 2015, which enhance the protection of workers' rights in the private sector, we would like to make the following recommendations:

* to accede to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
* to continue the stepsaimed at elimination of the restrictions on freedom of expression

and finally,

* to make every effort aimed at a full, impartial and transparent investigation of the Jamal Khashoggi's case.

Mr. President, we would like to wish Saudi Arabia every success in the implementation of the third UPR cycle.

Thank you.