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**32nd session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review of the**

**UN Human Rights Council**

**Review of Cambodia**

**Intervention by Delegation of Ukraine**

*January 30, 2019*

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine thanks the delegation of Cambodia for its National Report.

We note certain progress since the second UPR cycle and acknowledge Cambodia’s strong record of ratifications of core HRI.

However, Ukraine is concerned with credible reports pointing to a shrinking civic space in Cambodia, including adoption of legislation that restricts civil and political rights as well as rising numbers in reported cases of politically-motivated killings, arbitrary arrests, abductions and judicial harassments.

We regret that these challenges are aggravated by reported undermining of the country’s judiciary.

We believe that intensification of cooperation with UN special procedures and establishment of a fully-functioning national human rights institution would contribute to addressing these challenges.

We would thus like to recommend:

* to comply with obligations under ICCPR in elaboration, implementation and revision of policy and legislation;
* to ensure accountability for human rights violations through independent investigations and prosecution of perpetrators;
* to finalize in an expedited manner the procedures related to establishment of an NHRI in line with the Paris Principles;
* to issue standing invitation to all UN special procedures;
* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on abolition of the death penalty.

**Thank you.**