**UPR34**

**Canada’s recommendations for El Salvador’s UPR**

**4 November 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes El Salvador’s ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and withdrawal of its reservation to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Canada also welcomes the newly created Specialized Unit for disappeared persons cases within the Attorney General’s Office.

Canada recommends that El Salvador:

1. Follow through on 2018 efforts to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape or human trafficking; sexual abuse of a minor; risk to the health or life of the pregnant woman; or fatal fetal diagnosis, and enhance equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, in particular for adolescents.
2. Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to institutions mandated to prevent gender-based violence, to bring more perpetrators to justice and assist more victims.
3. Enact legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Canada notes recent efforts to address high homicide levels but is concerned with reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials. Canada urges authorities to fully investigate these allegations, providing mechanisms that protect victims and encourage them to report excessive use of force, while further enhancing human rights training for law enforcement officials.