**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Madagascar,**

**34th Session, November 11, 2019**

The United States welcomes the Malagasy delegation to the UPR Working Group.

We recommend that Madagascar:

1. Cease the harassment, arbitrary detention and intimidation of human rights defenders exercising their right to freedom of expression, including environmental activists.
2. Launch a transparent, independent investigation into allegations of arbitrary or unlawful killings of criminal suspects by the security forces, especially during operations to combat cattle rustling.
3. Immediately end the pervasive practice of lengthy pre-trial detention and intensify efforts to provide appropriate nutritional and medical care for those detained.

The peaceful presidential election in 2019 was a seminal moment in Madagascar’s democratic history, and we urge the Government of Madagascar to seize on its progress by implementing human rights reforms.