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**35th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**Intervention by Delegation of Ukraine**

*January 21, 2020*

Madam President,

Ukraine thanks the delegation of Laos for its detailed presentation of the national report.

Ukraine recognizes steps taken by the government of Laos to ensure human rights of its citizens since the last UPR cycle. Yet, we are concerned over information about shrinking space for civil society in the country. In particular, the reports of restrictions of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association as well as reported practice of arbitrary detention and incidents of torture.

Ukraine recommends to Laos to:

1. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without reservations.
2. Amend national legislation to ensure that it is fully consistent with Laos’s international human rights obligations and, in particular, to provide for fair trials and freedom from torture and arbitrary detention.
3. Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
4. Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

I thank you.