

PRESS RELEASE

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UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL TO REVIEW GHANA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

ACCRA, 7 November 2017 – The United Nations is scheduled to examine Ghana's human rights record today, 7th November 2017. The review today is by the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group, which peer reviews every UN Member State every four years. Today is the third round of review for Ghana, following 2008 and 2012. The purpose of the peer reviews is to track progress on Ghana's human rights obligations and commitments.

Ghana's delegation is led by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Ms. Gloria Afua Akuffo.

The documents on which the reviews are based are: 1) national report - information provided by the State under review; 2) information contained in the reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the Special Procedures, human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities; 3) information provided by other stakeholders including national human rights institutions, regional organizations and civil society groups.

Among the **issues** raised in the above-mentioned documents are: the abolition of the death penalty; improving detention conditions; investigating and prosecuting police abuse; establishing a national preventive mechanism against torture; combatting child labour; guaranteeing free and accessible education; warranting freedom of information; protecting human rights and access to justice for all Ghanaians, eradicating the gender pay gap, among others.

In Ghana, the NGO Forum on the UPR has been very active in assessing human rights recognition and protection and submitted detailed reports to the UPR process. The United Nations system in Ghana has been supporting the process, in particular by facilitating dialogue between the NGO Forum with the Office of the Solicitor General in the Ministry of Justice, to exchange views on the pertinent human rights concerns and to listen to the Government's evidence on the progress Ghana has made in acting on previous recommendations by the UPR.

This UPR cycle is well timed to ensure that a human rights approach is taken in the national achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, meeting the principle that "no one is left behind" in access to justice and ability to live in dignity. "Ghana's leadership for the SDGs is an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to human rights," says UN Resident Coordinator Christine Evans-Klock.

The UPR Working Group is **scheduled to adopt the recommendations** made to Ghana at its meeting on the 10th of November 2017. Ghana may wish to express its positions on recommendations posed to it during their review. The recommendations will be made public. The UN in Ghana looks forward to working with the Government and the NGOs to act on those recommendations and continue to make steady progress in the recognition and protection of human rights in Ghana.

The review will be [webcast live](http://webtv.un.org/) (<http://webtv.un.org/>).

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