Bucharest, February 18, 2022

**Response of Romania to the OHCHR questionnaire**

**on General Assembly resolution A/Res/68/268 (as reiterated in A/Res/75/174)**

Romania fully supports the work of the treaty bodies on human rights and pleads for them to consolidate as strong mechanisms to support the implementation of human rights standards in domestic systems. As such, Romania supports a recommitment by all States Parties to treaty bodies to fully respect the independence of treaty body members and avoiding any act that would interfere with the exercise of their functions. Moreover, Romania strongly condemns all acts of intimidation and reprisals against civil society actors, including human rights defenders, for their contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies.

Romania believes that most of the provisions of resolution 68/268 continue to be relevant and to provide an appropriate framework that would, if fully implemented, allow the treaty bodies to function more effectively if all stakeholders fulfil their respective obligations. The aim is the full and effective implementation of the human rights treaties, through a higher level of compliance by the State Parties with their reporting obligations and by better follow-up of Concluding Observations of the respective committees. The process should also contribute to the adoption of measures that facilitate State Parties to meet their reporting obligations.

Romania considers that further practical improvements in the short and medium term can be made to increase the effectiveness of the treaty body system. As such, Romania supports the accelerated use of new technological developments to increase the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of the TBs. Still, online work should not replace in-person interaction altogether, but considering online and hybrid models for treaty body activities where such modalities could be used.

Romania recognizes the efforts and progress made by the treaty bodies in enhancing harmonization of working methods in accordance with 68/268. The aligning of working methods and the harmonization of the reporting procedures continues to be of high importance; in Romania’s view, this includes both written and oral phases of the procedures in order to ensure a constructive dialogue throughout the whole evaluation process. Better coordination and consultation between the treaty bodies with regard to the list of issues presented to Member States, the content of concluding observations, the extent of General Comments/Recommendations will avoid unnecessary duplication or contradiction and thus consolidate the position of TBs. Romania submitted in 2020 the periodic report on CERD implementation for the period 2013-2018, thus addressing the issue of outstanding reporting under this treaty. Moreover, in 2019 Romania transmitted information as follow-up to the concluding observations on CEDAW and ICCPR.

Romania supports the introduction of a coordinated, fixed and multiyear calendar, which considers States reviews under the UPR and the different treaty bodies, for the sake of predictability, clarity and stability in reporting. For Romania, it is of crucial importance that reviews and time-limits are planned in advance. As such, Romania is programed for the next UPR in the first quarter of 2023, whereas the replies to LoIs under ICESCR are due in October 2022. Still in 2023, Romania is to present its periodic report on ICCPR implementation.

Romania makes extensive use of the Simplified Reporting Procedure, especially for periodic reports with the belief that it would ease the reporting burden and allow for more focused dialogue between State Parties and treaty bodies. As such, Romania volunteered to present its next periodic reports on CEDAW and CRC implementation under the simplified reporting procedure. As no LoIPRS were yet received, and given the schedule of some of the monitoring bodies, it appears that in 2023 Romania will also have to reply to LoIPRs received in 2022 under CEDAW and CRC.

Given the crowding of deadlines for various reporting procedures, it becomes even more central to the reporting process and to the monitoring bodies’ activity that guidelines and methodology be aligned and updated in order to allow for short, focused, concrete, questions and implementable, tangible, concentrated and prioritized conclusions and recommendations.