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**Oral Statement:
Adoption of the Report of the Working Group
on the Universal Periodic Review of Equatorial Guinea
13th Session of the Human Rights Council, Item 6**

March 19, 2010

Mr. President,

During the Review of Equatorial Guinea, states have examined the problems of corruption, inequitable disposition of national wealth, and the government's failure to meet the economic and social needs of the people.ⁱ

To address these matters, states have recommended that Equatorial Guinea combat corruption, improve budgetary accountability, and increase transparency, especially respecting oil revenues. We recognize the Government has indicated support for these recommendations.ⁱⁱ

If it is to fulfill its human rights obligations overall, Equatorial Guinea must be encouraged to fully carry out these recommendations, particularly regarding its corruption problem, the pervasiveness of which has been thoroughly documented. Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index ranks Equatorial Guinea 168 out of 180 countries.ⁱⁱⁱ

United States Senate investigations in 2004 and 2010 uncovered numerous bank accounts and shell companies used by high level Government officials to move millions of dollars of public funds into private control.^{iv} The 2010 investigation found that on a salary of \$60,000, a senior government official purchased a \$35 million home in California and a \$38.5 million Gulfstream jet.^v

In Spain, the Association for Human Rights, with assistance from the Open Society Justice Initiative, has initiated a now ongoing criminal investigation growing out of apparent money laundering uncovered in the 2004 investigation.^{vi}

We call on Equatorial Guinea to implement without delay its promises to this Council to address corruption and misappropriation and misallocation of national wealth.

We also urge all other governments to monitor and publicly report on progress made by Equatorial Guinea - in consultation with civil society - on implementing the recommendations made this session, in particular:

1. Extension of EITI transparency principles to budgetary process^{vii}
2. Publication of the national budget^{viii}
3. Clear identification of foreign bank accounts^{ix}
4. Verifiable declaration of assets by government representatives^x
5. Accession to the UN Convention Against Corruption^{xi}

ⁱ See recommendations relating to transparency and corruption, A/HRC/WG.6/6/L.15, paragraph 70, recommendations 5 (Australia), 11 (United Kingdom), 12 (Canada); see also recommendations relating to budget allocation and economic and social provisions, *ibid*, paragraph 70, recommendations 61 (Italy), 62 (Spain), 64 (Angola), 65 (Portugal), 70 (Canada), 72 (Mexico) and recommendations on alleviating poverty, *ibid*, paragraph 70 recommendation 66 (Brazil), 67 (Azerbaijan), 68 and 71 (South Africa), 69 (Sudan), and on equal access to work, *ibid*, paragraph 70 recommendation 77 (Angola).

ⁱⁱ *Ibid*, paragraph 70, recommendations 5 (Australia), 11 (United Kingdom), 12 (Canada)

ⁱⁱⁱ Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2009, available at:
http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009/cpi_2009_table

^{iv} United States Senate, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Committee on Governmental Affairs, Minority Staff Report, *Money Laundering and Foreign Corruption: Enforcement and Effectiveness of the PATRIOT Act, Case Study Involving Riggs Bank* (July 15, 2004), available at
<http://hsgac.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Documents.Home>. United States Senate, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Majority and Minority Staff Report, *Keeping Foreign Corruption Out of the United States: Four Case Histories* ("Four Case Histories") (February 4, 2010), available at
http://hsgac.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=dd873712-eb12-4ff7-ae1a-cbbc99b19b52

^v Four Case Histories, pp. 21, 27, 87, finding that between 2004 and 2008, Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue used U.S. lawyers, bankers, and real estate and escrow agents to move more than \$110 million in suspect funds through U.S. bank accounts, including \$30 million to purchase a residence in Malibu and \$38.5 million to purchase an aircraft. *Forbes* magazine listed the Malibu, California residence as the sixth most expensive home purchase in the United States in 2006 at \$35 million. Matt Woolsey, "Most Expensive Home Sales 2006," *Forbes* (December 12, 2006), available at
http://www.forbes.com/home/2006/12/11/most-expensive-sales-forbeslife-cx_mw_1212mostexpensivehomesales.html.

^{vi} See the complaint filed in Spain, and a summary of the arguments, available at:
<http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/litigation/obiangfamily>

^{vii} A/HRC/WG.6/6/L.15, paragraph 70, recommendation 11 (United Kingdom)

^{viii} *Ibid*, paragraph 70, recommendations 12 (Canada), 5 (Australia)

^{ix} *Ibid*, paragraph 70, recommendation 12 (Canada)

^x *Ibid*, paragraph 70, recommendation 13 (Canada)

^{xi} *Ibid*, paragraph 70, recommendation 5 (Australia)