



ORGANISATION NON GOUVERNEMENTALE AYANT STATUT SPÉCIAL À L'ECOSOC AUX NATIONS UNIES, MEMBRE OBSERVATEUR À LA COMMISSION AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES (CADEP) DE L'UNION AFRICAINE ET À L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (OIF)

22nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Thursday 14th March, 2013

UPR Report on Ghana

Speaker: Mr. Mewail Tesfamariam

Thank you Mr. President,

RADDHO welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Ghana and would like to commend the Government of Ghana for its continued commitment to its development programmes, specifically on issues affecting health, education and delivery of other basic services.

Ghana, as a model of democracy in West Africa, has time and again demonstrated its maturity in a remarkable way. The last general election which was peaceful, free and fair, is an ample testimony that confirms to this very advancement.

Our organization acknowledges the Government of Ghana's efforts in continuing to engage with the National Human Rights Institution and the civil society, recognizing the positive role they play in the betterment of human rights in the country. We are particularly encouraged by the passage of the Domestic Violence Act and the establishment of the Domestic Violence Secretariat. We are also pleased to know that the Government of Ghana is exerting its efforts to address the gaps in its human rights framework, and develop a national Human Rights Action Plan.

Mr. President, we however, would like to voice our deep concern about the continuing practice of Female Genital Mutilation in Ghana, and the ongoing violence against women in the rural areas of the country. In addition, we call on the Government of Ghana to enhance its efforts in the campaign to stop traditional practices affecting women in the rural areas and to take action by implementing laws to that end.

Police brutality is also an issue that the Ghanaian authorities must address without further delay. We encourage Ghana to promote human rights education in all spheres of the society, such as the promotion and awareness of human rights education in the police force.

In conclusion Mr. President, RADDHO would like to express its best wishes to Ghana in its endeavor to attain a future of peace, development and prosperity, where all its citizens can equally reap the benefits.

Thank you Mr. President,