

(Check against delivery)

Bangladesh intervention on the UPR of Guatemala

Thank you Madam President.

My delegation welcomes the distinguished delegation of Guatemala. The presentation made by Mr. Antonio Arenales Forno, the Secretary of Peace has been comprehensive and candid. We are impressed by the implementation of the visionary three major national pacts: the Zero Hunger Pact; the Security, Justice and Peace Pact; and the Fiscal Pact in order to address the people's most pressing social needs.

Madam President, cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms is essential for the human rights protection at a given context. Guatemala has demonstrated its willingness to cooperate. The visits of the High Commissioner in 2005 and in March 2012 are cases of evidence. Guatemala has also made contributions to OHCHR in 2008, 2009 and 2012.

The national report frankly admits that the Government of Guatemala recognizes the challenges and obstacles that need to be overcome for the implementation of recommendations made by the Human Rights Council. In this context, we are happy to note the government reiterates its commitment to continue taking actions and measures to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Guatemala.

As the country has embraced reconciliation and reconstruction after emergence from armed conflict, the situation may not be ideal yet. In addition, as a developing country, Guatemala grapples also with many challenges. CERD reiterated its concern about the absence of domestic legislation classifying the dissemination of ideas based on notions of superiority and violence against indigenous peoples or Afro-descendants as punishable acts. It recommended adopting a law specifically classifying the various manifestations of racial discrimination as punishable acts. We would like to know what measures the government of Guatemala has undertaken to address the situation.

Thank you.