

(Check against delivery)

**Bangladesh statement on the UPR of Zambia**

Thank you Madam President.

While extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Zambia, we appreciate also the comprehensive and candid presentation of the national report.

Being a fellow LDC, we fully appreciate the socio-economic conditions of Zambia. We therefore, commend the country for making serious stride in implementing the recommendations accepted during its first cycle of Review despite the challenges, through a variety of legislative, institutional and administrative measures. We particularly commend the adoption of laws like the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act, Anti- Human Trafficking Act, The Persons with Disabilities Bill and Education Act and the National Action Plan on Gender based Violence.

The government's commitment to improve the quality of life for the people of Zambia, especially those in rural areas by initiating programmes aimed at achieving higher and sustained economic growth is commendable. The government has rightfully chosen to focus on education, health, and agriculture.

Zambia shows many significant achievements and improvements. But the picture is not always rosy. There are shortcomings which can be attributed to high instances of poverty and HIV/AIDS prevalence that have a negative impact on the overall enjoyment of human rights, particularly on economic, social and cultural rights and negates the efforts to promote human development and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Understandably, the country needs international supports to successfully overcome these challenges. We would like to know from the distinguished delegation, what is the experience and expectation of Zambia from the international community to complement national efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you.