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Statement by Turkmenistan during the review of UAE's UPR

(28 January 2012)

Thank you Mister President,

First of all we would like to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of UAE to this session of the UPR Working Group and thank H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohammad Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for presenting a comprehensive update on the efforts undertaken by the Government of UAE to improve the human rights situation on the ground, particularly since the 1st UPR, which was adopted in 2009.

We note with appreciation that the Government of UAE, in 2010, established a standing committee to follow up on the universal periodic review report. Since its 1st UPR Review UAE acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

We are pleased to note that UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and a number of special procedures visited UAE at the invitation of the Government of UAE.

We welcome the efforts by the government of UAE for creating an enabling environment for the promotion and protection of human rights, i.e. independent judiciary, free media, vibrant civil society.

Mister President

To further accelerate the progress in areas of promotion and protection of human rights, we would like to propose the following recommendations:

- i. To further develop legislation and practices in the media sector to strengthen the right to freedom of expression
- ii. Continue its ongoing review of national laws to ensure that they are in line with its international human rights law obligations.

Thank you Mister President.