**UN Human Rights Council**

**16th Session of the Working Group of the UPR**

**Review of the Turkmenistan**

**Geneva, April 2013**

**Statement by Armenia**

Thank you Mr. President.

Armenia welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan to this UPR group and thanks them for the presentation of their national report. We commend engagement of Turkmen authorities in a constructive dialogue with United Nations human rights bodies, including in the framework of UPR.

We took positive note of the adoption of numerous laws to make legislatives reforms in Turkmenistan and the efforts made by the authorities to bring Turkmenistan’s legislation in line with its international treaty obligations, including the new act “On mass media” entered into force on 4 January 2013.

My delegation welcome the steps toward developing a national human rights action plan, including workshops in different thematic issues.

Particularly, we appreciate the progress in the field of education and school system. We take note of the introduction of a course on human rights, legislative systems and legal instruments in high and secondary schools.

We are nevertheless, consider that the challenge still remained to improve the situation of the rights of ethnic and national minorities.

Armenia recommends Turkmenistan

1. to enhance their access to education, health care and employment.

2. to continue the improvements in the field of education and to consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education.

3. to consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Thank you.