Remarks by **AZERBAIJAN** UPR-Turkmenistan

16th UPR Working Group session, Geneva, 22 April 2013 Mr SIRNOV

Mr. President,

We welcome the delegation of Turkmenistan in the UPR and thank for its informative presentation.

We commend the elaboration and adoption of the new Constitution of Turkmenistan which is deemed to be aimed at a further democratization of the country and public life, the improvement of the system of government authority.

We would like to positively mention the cooperation of Turkmenistan with UN human rights mechanisms, including the duly submission of the periodic reports of the Government to the treaty bodies. The central role of Interdepartmental Commission should be acknowledged in that sense. We recommend Turkmenistan to further improve its cooperation with the special rapporteurs of the United Nations.

We note the measures of the Government for the introduction and dissemination of information on human rights and increasing the awareness and understanding in this field. Opening of numerous human rights information centers should be particularly noted in that regard. We recommend Turkmenistan to further improve access of children, especially girls and women to the human rights education. We would like also to be informed about the current stage of deliberations with regard to the establishment of an independent national human rights institution.

We are glad to see the separate references to the freedom of Internet in the national report of Turkmenistan. Azerbaijan welcomes the measures undertaken by the Government in order to advance the use of internet services in the country. We believe that utilization of Internet services is crucial for the further promotion and protection of human rights and recommend Turkmenistan to continue its fruitful endeavors in that regard.

Thank you for attention.

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