Statement by the delegation of Cambodia

At the 16th Session of the UPR WG of HRC

Review of Turkmenistan

(Monday, 22 April 2013)

Mr. President,

* 1. First of all, Cambodia welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan led **by H.E. Mr. Wepa Hajiyev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs** at this UPR process and also thanks the delegation for the presentation of the country’s national report at this Session.
	2. My delegation welcomes the efforts made by the Government of Turkmenistan to promote and protect human rights. In the period 2008-2012, a number of plans of action and legislative acts were adopted in Turkmenistan to further promote and protect human rights in relevant fields (these include, among others, : the national programs for social and economic development, the Political Parties Act, the Refugees Act, the Migration Act, and the Mass Media Act).
	3. Cambodia welcomed Turkmenistan’s accession to a number of international instruments to further protect human rights in the country, which include, among others, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and the UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
	4. Obviously there remain the challenges ahead and we recognize the efforts of the Government to address the remaining issues and the shortcomings on human rights. Therefore we take this opportunity to make the following recommendation for the country: to continue its efforts that aim at further implementing its existing programs and policies on gender equality, in particular, with respect to the empowerment of women and the promotion of social inclusion, including that of the ethnic minorities.

Thank you.