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Statement by the Indonesian Delegation

16th Session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review

Consideration of the UPR Report of Turkmenistan

Geneva, 22 April 2013

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegations of Turkmenistan led by H.E. Mr. Wepa Hajiyev and thanks them for the presentation of their second cycle UPR report. We note frank and informative update on progress and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, particularly in the implementation of the accepted recommendations emanating from the first UPR report in 2008.

Mr. President,

Indonesia commends Turkmenistan for its sustained economic growth, averaging 11 per cent over the past five years. It has resulted in a steady increase in per capita GDP, as confirmed by World Bank experts. Since 2007, the GDP has increased nearly 3.5-fold, and currently per capita GDP exceeded the generally accepted threshold for high-income countries. My delegation applauds the Government’s efforts to use this economic growth for the benefit of the most needed Turkmen population, with more than 75 per cent of budgetary resources are allocated to finance ongoing capital expenditure in the social sphere.

We appreciate various positive measures by the Government of Turkmenistan in the context of combatting trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The adoption of the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons Act and the amendments of the Criminal Code is commendable. This legal and organizational foundation should provide State guarantees for the protection of society from such practices and for the criminalization of the purchase or sale of human beings for their recruitment, transport, concealment or transfer to other persons for the purpose of their exploitation. **My delegation therefore recommends that the Turkmen Government continue these efforts to enable tangible progress in combatting this heinous act.**

My delegation notes numerous ongoing steps by the Government to implement recommendations, emanating from the first UPR cycle. We appreciates series of HIV/AIDS awareness raising programmes, including the national programme for the prevention of the HIV infection for the period 2012–2016; the introduction of course on the fundamentals of health and safety in the school curriculum; and peer to peer trainings. We encourage Turkmenistan to step their efforts in this regard.

Indonesia appreciates Turkmenistan to conduct a joint project on “Strengthening the National Capacity of Turkmenistan to Promote and Protect Human Rights, 2009–2013” and **recommends them to continue their efforts to establish an independent national institution for human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles.**

In conclusion Mr. President, my delegation wishes the People and Government of Turmenistan all the best, in their ongoing and future efforts to better promote and protect human rights of the Turkmen population.

I thank you.