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**Statement by the Delegation of Kazakhstan
at the 16th Session of WG of HRC / UPR of Turkmenistan
22 April, 2013**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Kazakhstan's delegation welcomes the brotherly delegation of Turkmenistan headed by H.E. MR. WERPA HAJIYEV.

We thank His Excellency for a comprehensive presentation. Our delegation commends achievements and efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens.

We recognize Turkmenistan's strong commitments to human rights protection and promotion and welcome its election to the UN Commission on Population and Development, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the UN ECOSOC.

It is also worth mentioning that the country has acceded the core international legal human rights treaties and other international instruments during the last four years such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the ILO Convention on Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the UN Convention on the Status of Stateless People and so on.

Kazakhstan appreciates the Turkmen Government's initiative on the joint project "Strengthening the National Capacity of Turkmenistan to Promote and Protect Human Rights". In particular, we welcome the establishment of several Human Rights Information Centers within the framework of this project.

Concerning the State's National Report, our delegation would like to stress on several recommendations to the Government of Turkmenistan:

1. to devote more efforts in the field of harmonizing gender equality for guaranteeing their equal rights and;
2. to efficiently implement recently ratified international conventions, especially, in the field of child rights;
3. to take appropriate measures for ensuring judicial prosecution for trafficking in human.

In conclusion, our delegation wishes to underline that full implementation and compliance with the adopted in 2010 Culture Act would be mutually beneficial for all the stakeholders.

Thank you.