

(Check against delivery)

**Bangladesh statement on the UPR of Afghanistan**

My delegation would like to welcome the delegation of Afghanistan and convey our appreciation for the presentation of the comprehensive report.

It is noteworthy that the government has strictly followed certain recommendations that they accepted during its first cycle of UPR and enforced them where applicable.

Considering and the realities of Afghan society, we recognize that Afghanistan, a fellow SAARC country, has made noteworthy progress in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The government has been able to demonstrate its endeavors to address international concerns and to fulfill its international obligations to the extent possible. We are happy to note the progress made in creating new legislations, including law on elimination of violence against women, law on the rights and privileges of people with disabilities and children, measures adopted to continue the realization of women's rights and gender equality, and measures to ensure access to health and to reduce poverty.

Ensuring human rights in Afghanistan is faced with various impediments and challenges as outlined in the national report. While reviewing the country's human rights situation, we need to keep in mind that it is not possible to overcome these challenges without continuous and coordinated efforts well supported by the international community.

Mr. President, Afghanistan is approaching to the 2014 presidential elections and will enter the transformation decade (2015-2025) shortly. We wish the country well in its future endeavors.