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**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Eighteenth Session**

**Review of Afghanistan**

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~~H.E. Ambassador Dr. Walid Abdelnasser~~

~~Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
To the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva~~

(Geneva, 27<sup>th</sup>, of January 2014)

Mr.  
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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan, and appreciates the quality national report presented to the council, and the fruitful consultations conducted with the civil society during the process of its preparation.

Notwithstanding the immense security and socioeconomic challenges facing Afghanistan, the Government displayed unfettered commitment to continue upholding human rights. The significant efforts exerted in fighting against terrorism narcotics and corruption, reforming prisons, and eliminating violence against women, are among the developments that need to be commended. We are also encouraged by the extensive process of legislative review carried out in the framework of the National Plan of Action to further harmonize national laws with respective international legal obligations.

In the context of the brotherly relationships between the two countries, and as a member of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan, Egypt provided in 2013 training for more than 1,500 Afghani police officer, as well as programs administrated by Al-Azhar Al-Sharif in Cairo and through the Azhar Institute in Kabul to the train Imams on promoting moderation in Islam and fighting against fanaticism. We are hopeful that this fruitful cooperation, as well as the other endeavors announced during the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICG held last week in New Delhi contributes positively to the national efforts to eradicate terrorism and consolidate the rule of law.

Finally, we present the following recommendations for the kind consideration of the Government of Afghanistan:

- 1- To continue taking steps aiming at achieving further economic empowerment of women.
- 2- To proceed in using its sovereign right to apply death penalty as a tool of criminal justice in accordance with the proper safeguards specified under international human rights law.
- 3- To step up its national capacity building programs for law enforcement officials, including through international cooperation.
- 4- To consider ratifying the International Convention of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

I thank you.