

WG on UPR
18th session
Geneva, 27 January 2014

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Delegation of Afghanistan and thank for its all-inclusive and comprehensive statement.

Azerbaijan commends Afghanistan for its extensive replies in its current national report to the questions that our delegation put forward at the first cycle of UPR process. In that regard, we would like to note the adoption and improvement of certain laws and other pieces of legislation concerning the promotion of equity, the situation of women and their education opportunities, including the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women. We would like to recommend Afghanistan to continue its measures in this field.

We positively note the measures by the Government of Afghanistan for health strategy, poverty reduction and child trafficking, such as legislative efforts, protection of children through children protection networks, establishment of protection centers to protect victims of human trafficking and kidnapping, setting up control centers in border areas and communication network to prevent trafficking of women and children. In that regard, Azerbaijan recommends Afghanistan to continue its efforts in the field of poverty reduction so that the vulnerability of children to these risks is decreased.

We commend the positive work done by Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation for the improvement of social, economic and educational status of IDPs and refugees, including signing tripartite agreements with host countries. We would like to particularly note the measures and projects initiated by the Government in order to address the situation of returnees and livelihood of IDPs in Ghanzi province. We would recommend the Government of Afghanistan to continue the measures with regard to strengthening self-reliance of the returning refugees and IDPs.

Finally, we should also bear in mind that while ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, Afghanistan faces a number of challenges such as terrorism, limited financial resources and lack of access to certain services in non-secure parts of the country. In that regard, the considerable assistance by the international community is vital for overcoming these challenges. Azerbaijan has also made considerable assistance to Afghanistan in the field of education, training, health infrastructure and other spheres and would like to assure brotherly nation of Afghanistan of the continuation of such initiatives in the future as well.

Thank you for attention.