

Universal Periodic Review 18 – Afghanistan

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mister President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the delegation of Afghanistan for their national statement.

The Netherlands welcomes the commitments made by the Afghan government in the areas of rule of law and human rights as key pillars for development in Afghanistan. The passing of the law on the Elimination of Violence against Women in August 2009 and the reaffirmation of the commitments of the government towards human rights and women's rights at the Tokyo Development Conference in July 2012 are steps in the right direction.

However, significant gaps remain, notably in the promotion and protection of women's rights and transitional justice. Therefore, the Netherlands encourages Afghanistan to further enhance human rights, especially in these fields.

The Netherlands has two recommendations:

1. to enable and support the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission to continue its work as an effective and independent institution, including a transparent selection process of Commissioners, and by adequately funding the Commission on a permanent basis.
2. to ensure a national mechanism for transitional justice and national reconciliation, starting with the immediate release of the conflict mapping report of the Human Rights Commission and adequate security assistance for its staff.

Thank you Mister President.