

UPR 17th SESSION
COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: AFGHANISTAN

Intervention by Turkey

Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to welcome the Afghan delegation and thank them for their well-structured national report and its successful presentation.

Turkey commends the Afghan Government's efforts to implement the recommendations presented at the first round of the UPR.

We are aware that Afghanistan is passing through an era of transformation of the security situation. The endeavor to improve the human rights situation in the country becomes more important at this challenging period. Unfortunately, the opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan reached a sobering record high in 2013. This situation poses a hazard to health, stability and development of Afghanistan.

On the other hand, the upcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections on April 5th in Afghanistan will constitute an important milestone for democracy during the present transition period. We commend the National Development Strategy and the National Priority Programs which determine human rights as a priority.

We also commend the approval of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted in 2009, and the founding of the Special Prosecution Office for countering violence against women as initial steps. Nevertheless, the failure to respond effectively to violence against women undermines the already-perilous state of women's rights. The Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women remains largely unenforced. We recommend the Afghan Government to further these steps by effective implementation of this law.

Aiming at improving the status of women in the country, we have initiated a three month training program for 100 female police officers from Afghanistan, in January 2014 in Turkey, which is the most comprehensive training program for women police in this context.

Another development we would like to commend is Afghanistan's five year strategy of the Ministry of Justice, comprising the years 2013-2018. A successful implementation of the said plan would be a good chance for transparency, accountability and good governance.

I thank you Mr. President.