

UZBEKISTAN

Please check against delivery

United Nations Human Rights Council**18th Session of the UPR Working Group – Afghanistan****Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

(Geneva, 27 January 2014)

Mr. President,

Uzbekistan sincerely welcomes the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and thanks for the presentation of the national report in the framework of the second cycle of the UPR.

The report provides comprehensive information on the work carried out to strengthen the national human rights protection system based on the recommendations adopted during the first review of the country in 2009. It identified specific objectives of human rights agenda and actual challenges that the Government of Afghanistan faces on the way to achieve them.

We welcome the adoption of a number of legislative and institutional measures aimed at protecting and promoting human rights, including the rights of women, children, the disabled and the right to education. In this regard, the development of national plans and strategies on various aspects of human rights, strengthening of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, establishment of human rights units within ministries and agencies, as well as reforms of the electoral system are particularly noteworthy.

We note with satisfaction the accession of Afghanistan to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, as well as ongoing works in the country to implement the provisions of international human rights instruments into national legislation.

Uzbekistan makes the following recommendations:

1. Further strengthen the Legal Aid Department of the Ministry of Justice and establish relevant mechanisms for coordination of its activities with other entities working in the area of providing legal assistance;

2. Take measures to ensure coordination of activities of national and international human rights organizations working on different aspects of human rights in Afghanistan.

In conclusion we would like to wish the Afghan delegation a successful review.

Thank you for your attention.