

**UPR 18th SESSION**  
**COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: ERITREA**  
**Intervention by Turkey**

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to welcome the Eritrean delegation and thank them for their presentation.

After examination of the national report of Eritrea, we see that Eritrea's human rights efforts have two important pillars:

- 1. Improving the situation of girls and women.
- 2. Achieving the MDGs.

In this strife, we see that Eritrea is cooperating with the UN mechanisms. Within the last three months, since Turkey inaugurated its Embassy in Asmara, we have witnessed two important visits of different UN Agencies. The visit of the OHCHR was realized upon the invitation of the State of Eritrea. We consider such frequent visits as a sign of developing cooperation between the UN and Eritrea. We should use this momentum to further strengthen cooperation through technical support.

As for the situation of girls and women, we see that Eritrea attaches special attention to education, which we also consider as a useful instrument for both empowering women and raising the awareness of the population on gender equality. The comprehensive policy for eradicating the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation is also a commendable strife in achieving gender equality.

Eritrea's national report is a clear indication of the Eritrean Government's awareness that social development is a 'sine qua non' for achieving MDGs. In this respect, we **recommend** Eritrea to allocate more resources to the education system, particularly education of girls, in order to achieve a successful social development level. Turkey **also recommends** Eritrea to further develop cooperation with the relevant UN bodies and is ready to support the country's efforts in all aspects.

Thank you Mr. President.