**19th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of the kingdom of Bhutan**

**Statement by Afghanistan**

**30th April 2014**

**Mr. President,**

My delegation warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan to this session of UPR Working Group, and thanks H.E Lyowpo Damcho Dorsi Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs for his statement, national report and Bhutan’s commitment to the Universal Periodic Review.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan appreciate the fact that despite being a land lock and least developed country Bhutan has taken significant steps toward the promotion of the social and economic rights of its citizens. We encourage the International Community to further cooperate with the Government of Bhutan to help the country in further promoting the social and economic rights of its people.

We recognize the important role that the National Commission for Women and Children plays in promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and the disadvantaged. To further strengthen the Commission we **recommend** the Government of Bhutan to continue providing assistance to the Commission through capacity building and providing additional human resources and technical expertise. We likewise, note the increasing number of civil society organizations CSOs, as per the report 33 CSOs were registered in 2013 and more are emerging, considering the important role of CSOs, Afghanistan **recommend** the Government of Bhutan to facilitate the growth and development of CSOs in the country.

In conclusion, we wish the esteemed delegation a successful UPR review.

Thank you,