



20th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of the Islamic Republic of Iran

(31 October 2014)

**Statement by Afghanistan**

Mr. President,

Afghanistan welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group and wishes to thank H.E. Dr. Mohammad Javad Ardeshir Larijani for the presentation of their national report.

We commend the efforts taken so far by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the implementation of recommendations it received during its first cycle of the UPR in 2010. We take positive note of the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Afghanistan shares a long history of peaceful and friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. For decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a host to a large number of Afghan refugees. The plight of Afghan refugees across the globe and the efforts of the international community and our neighboring countries including Iran, to find a durable solution are of a paramount importance to the Government of Afghanistan.

In light of that importance, we would like to reiterate our appreciation of the support by the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting Afghan refugees and in that context, recommend that measures taken to protect refugee rights are in compliance with the internationally recognized norms and standards.

In conclusion, we would like to wish the Islamic Republic of Iran every success in the adoption of its national report.

Thank you.