**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**25th Session – 10 May 2016**

**STATE UNDER REVIEW: SWAZILAND**

**(Intervention by Turkey)**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Swaziland and thank them for their substantive presentation today.

Turkey is pleased to note that following its first review in 2011, the Kingdom of Swaziland made notable improvements in the field of human rights. We praise the sincere efforts exerted by Swaziland in ratifying 29 international legal instruments, which also shows the readiness of the Swazi Government to cooperate with relevant international bodies.

We appreciate the adoption of the Extended National Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS (2014-2018) which aims at reducing new HIV/AIDS infections. Turkey also praises Swaziland’s efforts to eradicate TB and to lower infant and newborn mortality rates.

Regarding the rights of women, Turkey encourages the Government to strengthen its efforts for the promotion and protection of women’s rights in various fields.

Turkey appreciates the continuation of the implementation of the Free Primary Education Program which led to net enrolment rates above 90 percent.

Bearing in mind that there are still steps to be taken to improve the human rights situation in the country, Turkey would like to **recommend** the following:

1. Implement strategies in combating gender inequality as well as discriminatory practices against women and strengthen the Gender and Family Issues Unit within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in both human and financial terms.
2. Adopt measures to prevent and eliminate all abuses of sexual violence against girls and women and ensure that perpetrators are adequately punished.
3. Sign and ratify OP-CEDAW.
4. Continue to implement the adopted HIV/AIDS response strategies, with a view to further reducing new infections.
5. Eliminate factors preventing boys and girls to enjoy secondary school education and reduce dropout of school rate.

Finally, we wish Swaziland all the success during its 2nd UPR.

I thank you, Mr. President.