UPR 44, November 13, 2023

**CANADA’S STATEMENT –** **BANGLADESH UPR44**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada commends Bangladesh for hosting 1 million Rohingya refugees until conditions permit their repatriation to Myanmar and is committed to continuing to work with Bangladesh to help ensure their rights are protected and needs met.

Canada recommends that Bangladesh:

1. Repeal the Cyber Security Act which, like its predecessors, criminalizes freedom of expression and could facilitate the ongoing and increasing targeting and judicial harassment of dissenting voices.
2. Improve working conditions by ensuring worker safety and fully implement its obligations under international conventions, specifically ILO Conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining.
3. Eliminate child, early and forced marriage, including by reforming the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2017, to remove the exception for child marriage “if it is deemed to be in the best interests of the child”, as this provision is ambiguous and open to abuse.

**Observations (if time allows):**

Criminalize enforced disappearances in line with international standards; and conduct swift, thorough and impartial investigations to bring perpetrators to justice.

Take active steps to protect sexual and gender minorities and diverse groups in human rights legislation.

WORDS: 182

ALLOCATED TIME: 1 min 5 sec