**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh,**

**44th Session, November 13, 2023**

**As delivered by Christen Kucharski**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Bangladesh.

The United States stands with the people of Bangladesh,including members of marginalized racial, ethnic, and Indigenous communities, in their desire for democracy, human rights, and rule of law. We urge the government to restore inclusive, transparent, and democratic processes and provide space for dissenting voices.

In the spirit of cooperation, we recommend that Bangladesh:

1. Protect the ability of citizens of Bangladesh to vote and choose their government by ensuring free and fair elections held in a peaceful manner.

2. Ensure that journalists, human and labor rights defenders, and others are not prosecuted or detained for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, or association, and ensure all individuals receive fair trial guarantees.

3. Investigate, hold accountable, and prosecute, as appropriate, members of security forces and others who commit, or have committed, human rights violations or abuses.

I thank you.