**CANADA’S STATEMENT –** **TURKMENISTAN UPR 44**

**November 6, 2023**

Thank you, Mister President.

Canada thanks the delegation of Turkmenistan for its presentation and notes the adoption of a second National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2021 to 2025.

Canada recommends that Turkmenistan:

1. Investigate and take measures to end violations of human rights, such as enforced disappearances, politically motivated arrests, arbitrary detention, torture, and ill treatment of prisoners.
2. Ensure the protection of the rights of women, including by adopting legislation specifically criminalizing gender-based violence against women and girls.
3. Allow the right to freedom of movement; not impede foreign or domestic travel for anyone, including perceived government opponents, critics, and their relatives, and issue or renew passports for those who are left undocumented.
4. Cease any form of intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, independent journalists, civil society, and activists by revising laws and policies to ensure an enabling environment for freedom of expression.

**Observations (if time allows):**

Additionally, Canada remains concerned with food security in Turkmenistan, the rise in the price of food, by shortages of subsidized food, and by government rationing of subsidized food.

Thank you.

**WORDS: 177**

**ALLOCATED TIME: 1min30**