UPR 44, November 8, 2023

**CANADA’S STATEMENT -** **REPUBLIC of UZBEKISTAN UPR44**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes positive steps in Uzbekistan’s reform agenda, including the criminalization of domestic violence, and constitutional amendments strengthening prohibitions on capital punishment and on degrading punishment.

Canada recommends that Uzbekistan:

1. Eliminate the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, by thoroughly and impartially investigating allegations thereof, and bringing perpetrators to justice.
2. Conclude and make public a comprehensive investigation into the violation of human rights and mistreatment of people involved in the July 2022 demonstrations in Karakalpakstan (Karakal-pakstan)
3. Ensure the protection of the rights of women and LGBTQ2I people in accordance with international standards and promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and men throughout society, including by adequately increasing the representation of women in the cabinet of ministers.
4. Encourage the development of independent civil society by reducing administrative barriers restricting the establishment and activities of NGOs.

**Observations (if time allows)**

Canada continues to be concerned about reports of forced rectal examinations of men suspected of involvement in same sex sexual relationships.

**WORDS: 171**

**ALLOCTAED TIME: 1 min 25**