**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Afghanistan**

**46th Session, April 29, 2024**

**Delivered by Ambassador Michèle Taylor**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The United States welcomes the Afghanistan delegation.

We recommend that all relevant political actors and stakeholders in Afghanistan, including the Taliban:

1. Immediately reverse all discriminatory edicts, particularly those that prohibit women and girls’ access to education and employment and ban their presence in public spaces.
2. Ensure the prompt, independent, credible investigation and, as appropriate, prosecution of gender-based violence, and cease detentions for so-called “moral crimes.”
3. Cease restrictions on press freedom, and violence and harassment of journalists and media workers; investigate all such attacks and intimidation thoroughly and impartially.
4. Release all activists detained for exercising their freedom of expression, including by expressing criticism, and engaging in peaceful protest.
5. End all forms of inhumane treatment of LGBTQI+ persons, promptly investigate alleged abuses of their rights, and hold perpetrators accountable.
6. Disallow coerced confessions in Afghan courts.

I thank you.