

**Permanent Mission of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**36th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Statement on the Review of Nepal**

 21 January 2021 at 9:00

**Mr./Mme. (Vice) President,**

Afghanistan cordially welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. We express our appreciation for their engagement with the UPR and for their positive developments since the previous cycle.

In particular, Afghanistan welcomes progress towards eliminating hunger and malnutrition**,** the 2019 Education Policy, and theprogram to enroll school children affected by armed conflict and provide them with scholarships

**Mr./Mme. (Vice) President,**

While we acknowledge the above achievements, we remain concerned that less than 10 per cent of the National Human Rights Commission’s recommendations had been implemented as of 9 July 2020.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we wish to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
2. Adopt national legislation in accordance with international standards relating to the protection of refugees and put mechanisms in place to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement.

Finally, Afghanistan encourages Nepal to continue to promote and protect human rights in the context of COVID-19 and wishes Nepal every success in the UPR review process.

**I thank you, Mr./Mme. (Vice) President.**