**National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad during the 3rd UPR Review of the Syrian Arab Republic**

**40th UPR Session**

**24 January 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We thank Syria for presentation of its 3rd UPR report and appreciate its continued engagement with the UPR mechanism.

We remain concerned over the dire human rights, humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of a decade long conflict in Syria and call on all parties to ensure respect for international human rights and humanitarian laws.

We underscore the need for accelerating efforts to intensify dialogue and reconciliation among Syrian people.

We share concerns of the Secretary General and UN human rights machinery regarding multiple socioeconomic challenges faced by Syria and call on the international community to channelize its support in overcoming these challenges.

 We recommend Syria to:

1. Harmonize its national legislation with international human rights obligations.
2. Continue its cooperation with international human rights machinery.
3. Consider seeking international assistance especially to promote and protect rights of children including through ensuring food security as well as provision of health and education facilities.

I thank you.