**National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during the 3rd UPR Review of Uganda**

**40th UPR Session**

**27 January 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We welcome and thank the delegation of Uganda for the comprehensive presentation of its UPR report.

We appreciate Uganda’s cooperation with the UPR mechanism and acknowledge efforts made to implement recommendations of 2nd UPR as well as voluntary pledges.

The adoption and implementation of Data Protection and Privacy Act; Environment Act; Mental Health Act; Human Rights Enforcement Act and Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations are noteworthy steps and demonstrate Uganda’s commitment to align human rights framework with international human rights obligations.

We also welcome the adoption of National Development Plan III and encourage Uganda to continue its efforts towards achieving sustained growth, promoting employment and improving livelihoods.

We recommend Uganda to:

* Continue efforts to further strengthen the independence of National Human Rights Commission.
* Sustain efforts to finalize and implement National Action Plan on Human Rights.
* Pursue measures aimed at mitigating COVID induced socio-economic impacts and implementing the National Development Plan.

I thank you.