

PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS

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**Statement delivered by Barbados on the occasion of the third cycle of their Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh**

**14 May, 2018**

Thank you Mister Vice President

On behalf of the Government of Barbados, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the delegation of Bangladesh, in particular their Head of Delegation, the Honourable Mr. Anisul Huq, Minister of Law, to this their country’s third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Barbados commends Bangladesh for the steps taken since its last review and is encouraged by its commitment to further enhance its protection and promotion of human rights. In particular, we welcome the legislative reforms that Bangladesh has adopted in a number of human rights areas, including on women, children and education. We however recognise that improving the protection and promotion of human rights is a continuous process and that Bangladesh has much more work to do.

In this regard, Barbados recommends that Bangladesh:

* works expeditiously to bring its national legislation and policies fully in line with its international commitments; and
* continues its efforts at increasing the number of children, particularly girls, enrolled in free and compulsory primary education, and hopes that free and compulsory education is extended to secondary school aged children irrespective of gender or ethnicity.

We do take note that as a country with significant challenges and limited resources, Bangladesh considers that as a precursor to becoming a Party to an international instrument, due consideration should be given to the ability of its national institutions to implement its commitments. However, Barbados believes that bringing national policy and legislation in line with international instruments even though a country may not yet be a Party to that instrument, could play a significant role in improving its protection of human rights and its human rights profile.

Mister Chairman, Barbados takes this opportunity to wish Bangladesh a successful conclusion to its Universal Periodic Review.

I thank you Mister Vice President.

PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS