**UPR32**

**Recommendations by Canada for Afghanistan’s UPR**

**21 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes the progress accomplished by the government of Afghanistan to protect human rights, particularly the implementation of laws to protect the rights of women and girls.

Canada recommends that Afghanistan:

1. Abide by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Afghan Child Protection Policy, notably by ending the unlawful recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and bringing the perpetrators to justice.
2. Ensure prompt and thorough investigations of violence against women and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with the EVAW Law.
3. Undertake a review of the security challenges faced during past parliamentary elections and apply the lessons learned to ensure the safety of Afghans during the upcoming Presidential election.
4. Take steps to protect against, and prosecute those who attack or obstruct the work of journalists and human rights defenders.

Despite ongoing challenges, more has to be done to implement human rights legislation through public education, training of officials, and ensuring access to justice. Afghanistan’s current term on the UNHRC is an opportunity to reinforce Afghanistan’s commitment to implementing human rights laws and improving the protection of the rights of Afghans.