

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 32nd Session (21 January – 01 February 2019) : 3rd UPR of Afghanistan - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Chander, Permanent Representative of India [Geneva, 21 January 2019]**

**Statement by India**

Mr. Vice President,

 India warmly welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan.

2. India appreciates the efforts of Afghanistan towards providing better health service, free education up-to the undergraduate level and poverty reduction. We take note of the goals envisaged for girls in the third National Education Strategic Plan. We commend the increasing representation of women in decision making and economic institutions.

3. India shares the concerns that the right to life, the most essential fundamental human right, is under threat in Afghanistan from externally imposed terrorism. Immediate cessation of terrorist violence and elimination of safe havens and sanctuaries are essential for enduring protection of the rights of Afghan people, especially women, children and minorities.

4. India recommends the following to Afghanistan:

1. Continue the on-going poverty reduction measures
2. Continue the on-going measures towards access to better heath care and affordable education
3. Continue measures for women’s empowerment
4. Continue capacity development of Afghan youth
5. Continue its efforts to combat terrorism and its funding

5. We wish Afghanistan every success in its future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.