

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

Universal Periodic Review (3rd Cycle) –Afghanistan <*Check against delivery*>

Geneva, 21 January 2019

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan and appreciates the submission of its national report for the third cycle of the UPR.

My delegation acknowledges that the Afghan Government has made efforts to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights since its previous UPR, especially through the enforcement of the new Penal Code in 2018.

Bearing in mind the progress made, my delegation would like to present the following recommendations.

1. Take all necessary measures to minimize civilian casualties, considering that Afghan civilians, especially women and children, continue to suffer the devastating impact of the armed conflict;
2. Ensure the effective implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law and make continued efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;
3. Make further efforts to protect civil society organizations, human rights defenders and journalists from attacks and threats and to ensure a safe and secure environment for their work

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President. /END/