**UNIVERSIAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**32nd SESSION**

**REVIEW OF AFGHANISTAN**

**Intervention by Turkey**

**21 January 2019**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the Afghan delegation.

Afghanistan is facing complex challenges. The intensity of decades-long conflict is exacerbating civilian casualties. Terrorist networks, such as DAESH Khorasan, continue their ruthless attacks against all segments of the population. Levels of poverty and displacement due to conflict and drought are on the rise.

We commend the efforts of the Government to implement the recommendations presented at during the second round. Among notable areas of progress, ratifications of important laws stand out.

It is also noteworthy that Afghanistan ratified OP-CAT and lifted its reservation for Article 20 of the CAT. Turkey **recommends** further progress in streamlining and implementing the new legislation in the fields of combatting torture and access to information to take place.

At this important juncture, Afghanistan pursues an audacious agenda in search of a lasting peace. Perseveration of the achievements in the field of human rights in the past two decades while also providing security for upcoming elections and pursuing reconciliation with Taliban would be key challenge ahead.

Hence, Turkey **recommends** the Government to maintain advancement of human rights as a priority.

Thank you.