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PERMANENT MISSION

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA GENEVA

# United Nations Human Rights Council

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**Intervention of the Republic of Albania**

**on the UPR of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan 21 January 2019**

Mr. Vice President,

Albania welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan and thanks it for presenting the third national report. We commend Afghanistan for its efforts since the last review cycle and for its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

We welcome efforts towards improving women’s participation in governance and decision-making processes at various levels. We recommend that Afghanistan take the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law.

We congratulate Afghanistan for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the adoption of a new Penal Code. We recommend that Afghanistan consider instituting a moratorium on executions and commuting death sentences of minors.

We also wish to make the following recommendations:

* Continue to take the necessary measures to strengthen the rights of children, including with regard to access to education.
* Guarantee the safety of journalists and media workers operating throughout the country and end the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against journalists.

We wish the Afghan delegation a successful review. Thank you, Mr. President.

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