**Bangladesh statement in the review of the Third Cycle of UPR of Afghanistan**

**Geneva, 21 January 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President.

My delegation welcomes the Afghan delegation and appreciates its national report.

Afghanistan is faced with many challenges in course of its transformation decade for nation-building during 2015 - 2025. We congratulate Afghanistan’s National Unity Government for holding the Parliamentary Elections in October 2018, which was an important step towards consolidating democracy.

We also commend the extensive legal and policy reforms undertaken pursuant to the second cycle recommendations. Afghanistan’s treaty-body reporting during the period in question is indeed noteworthy.

My delegation recognizes Afghanistan’s achievements in promoting and protecting the rights of women. Woman’s empowerment through their extensive political participation is truly encouraging. Bangladesh stands ready to share its good practices through both public and private sector engagements.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh recommends that Afghanistan continues its efforts to develop effective and sustainable health systems for its citizens’ better access to quality healthcare services.

We wish Afghanistan a successful review.

Thank you.