**STATEMENT OF MAURITIUS**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF AFGHANISTAN**

**Monday 21 January 2019 – 14h30**

Mr. President,

The Mauritius delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Afghanistan and thanks them for the presentation of the UPR Report for the third cycle.

Mauritius congratulates Afghanistan for enacting various legislative measures aiming at the promotion and protection of human rights. Mauritius also applauds the accession of Afghanistan to the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture in 2018 without any reservation.

On the social front, we congratulate the Afghan government for implementing numerous initiatives and programmes with the aim of improving the literacy rate, alleviating poverty, improving infrastructure as well as access to basic services.

We recommend the Afghan authorities to take specific measures to improve access to education, and give a special attention to the challenges faced by the vulnerable segments including girls, women and persons with disabilities to complete their education.

We wish the delegation of Afghanistan a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.