**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF NORWAY**

**(6 May 2019)**

**STATEMENT BY TURKEY**

Mr. President;

Turkey warmly welcomes the Norwegian delegation.

We would like to express our appreciation for a well-elaborated national report.

We applaud the high level of human rights standards in Norway and commend Norway’s valuable contribution to the efforts of the HRC in various fields, as well as its important financial contribution to the OHCHR.

We welcome the measures taken to address hate speech, such as providing funding for the Council of Europe’s Young People Combating Hate Speech Online campaign since 2014. We also take note of the new strategy against hate speech.

However, we share the view of the Norwegian National Human Rights Institution (NIM) that further measures should be taken to combat hate speech and hate crimes, and to intensify efforts to ensure non-discrimination of persons with immigrant backgrounds in housing and employment sectors.

We understand that the Child Welfare Act is intended to ensure that children living in conditions which may be detrimental to their health and development are assisted in their best interests.

Nonetheless, we recommend for a thorough review of the practices concerning the removal of children from their families and placement in foster families, in light of the children’s special needs and bonds with their cultural, ethnic and religious identity. We recommend that Norway ensure that the right to family life is duly recognized.

Thank you.