United Nations Human Rights Council

35th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Geneva, 28 January 2020

**FINAL REMARKS**

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON ARMENIA

Statement by Armenia (Speaker: Ms. Kariné Sujayan, Head of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues Department, MFA)

Mr. Vice-President,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

It is an honor and privilege to be here today for the adoption of recommendations on Armenia by the UPR working group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the President and the Secretariat for helpful assistance throughout this process as well as to thank the delegations for cooperation in an objective, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner with the aim to enhance promotion and protection of human rights in Armenia. I’d like to thank Troika, namely Nepal, Venezuela and Poland for their cooperation, time and efforts to prepare Armenia’s review.

Armenia welcomes ongoing process of the strengthening of the UPR mechanism and underlines the importance of sharing best practices. We greatly appreciate the interest shown on human rights situation in Armenia and support to the democratic changes in my country. I would like to thank States for recognition of the progress that Armenia registered in a number of areas, including activities aimed at strengthening independence of judiciary, equality before the law, gender equality, development and implementation of various plans and strategies as well as Armenia’s contribution to joint efforts of the international community to develop measures aimed at preventing recurrence of the crimes of genocide in future. Armenia reaffirms its full commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to achieve peace and cooperation between States.

We acknowledge the constructive engagement of States whose recommendations intended to bring real contribution to strengthening human rights and democracy in the country. Armenia will report about future developments in the field of human rights in its next mid-term review. For Armenia the third cycle of the UPR process is an effective tool propelling Government both to assess positive developments and challenges it faces.

We recognize that despite our achievements in many areas, numerous challenges and unresolved issues in the field of human rights still remain there. We heard many States welcomed our progress. We will do our best to keep up with such expectations.

On behalf of the Government of Armenia I would like once again to thank States for active participation and constructive dialogue. Armenia will consider carefully each recommendation received and present its reaction in writing before the plenary of the Human Rights Council 44th Session commences.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of cooperation with civil society and representatives of non-governmental organizations. We greatly appreciate the activities and role that NGO partners played in this process.

The recommendations received will be translated into Armenian and distributed among all interested ministries, agencies and relevant stakeholders. I also would like to reiterate our commitment to continue cooperation with the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia in the course of monitoring the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

In conclusion, I would like once again to thank all partners for their invaluable assistance and ongoing cooperation.

I thank you.