**36th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Statement on the Review of Belarus**

2 November 2020 at 9:00hrs

**Mme. President,**

Afghanistan warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Belarus to this meeting and thanks them for their engagement with the UPR and for the presentation of their national report.

My delegation welcomes the ratification of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Belarus. **Meanwhile,** we share the concern expressed by many delegations about the response of Belarus to mass demonstrations and its restrictions on fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, my delegation wishes to make the following recommendations:

1- Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles

2- Strengthen access to education for children with disabilities

3- Adopt measures to protect refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers from torture *and* ensure the protection of children in migration

Finally, Afghanistan wishes Belarus every success in the UPR review process.

**I thank you, Madam President.**