

**Video Statement**

**Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the Independent Human Rights  
Commission (AIHRC)**

**26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**on**

**Adoption of States' Recommendation on the Universal Periodic Review  
report on Afghanistan**

**His Excellency President and distinguished States' delegates,**

We believe that the UPR is a worthwhile reviewing mechanism, encompassing of the United Nations member states, providing he with opportunities to present their achievements in promotion and protection of human rights in their countries.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission appreciates the Afghan's Government for presenting its second UPR report to the Human Rights Council, and we highly appreciate the vast efforts of the Working Group for considering the comments and recommendations made by the OHCHR, stakeholders and the AIHRC on the implementation of the States' recommendations made on the first round of UPR Afghanistan.

The AIHRC welcomes the commitments made by the Afghan government during the second review and highlighting some of the most significant improvements have been made in the areas of rights to education, right to health care, promotion of women's rights, freedom of speech, development of media outlets, and realization of democracy and human rights in good governance process. However, there are economic, social and political problems, challenging the Afghan Government to overcome through making appropriate planning and political motivations. Issues such as insecurity, poor rule of law, low quality of education and health services, unsustainable economy, corruption and nepotism, criminal economy and low capacity of Government to prevent human rights abuse due to bad quality of business, underscore the Government capability for achievement.

**Mr. President,**

Peace and security, development and human rights are the three pillars of democracy, and all these are not possible without full participation of

women in every process and decision-making in the country. We do have remarkable achievements on human rights, but we still have a long way to reach a situation, where the people could exercise and enjoy their basic human rights and freedoms. That is why I call upon the United Nations and international community to keep supporting the Afghan government to fulfill its responsibility for promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan.

Thank you for your attention.