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**UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-sixth session, 10-27 June 2014**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the substantive exchanges that took place during the review of Afghanistan, and the government's support of 188 out of 224 recommendations.

We regret, however, Afghanistan's rejection of recommendations for a moratorium on the death penalty.¹ Amnesty International, legal experts and other human rights groups have expressed serious concerns that trials fall below international standards of fairness which may lead to the innocent being executed. We urge the Afghan government to establish an immediate moratorium on executions, as a first step towards abolishing capital punishment.

Measures to prevent violence against women must be consolidated. Only a fraction of such cases have been prosecuted under the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law. The government must fully implement the law, as recommended by 26 states and supported by Afghanistan.² We also welcome Afghanistan's support of 14 recommendations to strengthen women's participation in political processes and

¹ A/HRC/26/4, paragraphs 138.1-138.9 (France, Italy, Montenegro, Spain, Australia, Czech Republic, Uruguay, Argentina and Sweden).

² *Ibid*, paragraphs 136.131-136.153 (Lithuania, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, USA, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Australia, Turkey, Sweden and Austria); 136.155 (Romania); 136.157 (Chile); and 136.165 (Indonesia).

decision-making, including the peace process, as required by UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.³

Amnesty International welcomes Afghanistan's acceptance of recommendations to address the suffering of victims of armed conflict, including internally displaced persons.⁴ We urge the government to allocate adequate financial and human resources swiftly to implement its National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons.

Mr President,

As international military engagement in Afghanistan declines, it is vitally important that the independence and capacity of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission is strengthened so as to enable it to monitor and protect human rights effectively in the country, as recommended by 11 states.⁵

It is essential that the gains of the past 13 years are not lost, and that safeguards are in place to protect human rights beyond 2014. The Afghan government must fulfil its international human rights obligations⁶ and address impunity for human rights abuses by state and non-state actors, as recommended in the review.⁷ To this end, the justice system must be strengthened in line with international standards and corruption rooted out.⁸ Any new laws and policies must serve to strengthen human rights and the rule of law in Afghanistan.

Thank you, Mr. President.

³ A/HRC/26/4, paragraphs 136.60 (Bahrain); 136.69-136.74 (Croatia, Djibouti, France, Estonia, Ireland, Belgium); 136.90 (Morocco); 136.92 (Ethiopia); 136.95 (Ecuador); 136.98 (Canada); 136.99 (Finland); 136.153 (Austria) and 136.156 (Australia).

⁴ *Ibid*, paragraph 136.45 (Spain); 136.105 (USA); 136.31-136.34 (Uruguay, Azerbaijan, France and Austria); and 136.37 (Djibouti).

⁵ *Ibid*, paragraphs 136.119-136.129 (USA, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Australia, and Comoros).

⁶ *Ibid*, paragraphs 136.3-136.7 (Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway and Vietnam, Bahrain); 136.18 (Turkmenistan); 136.63 (Czech Republic); 136.75 (Italy); 136.79 (Lithuania); 136.83 (Russian Federation); 136.101 (Latvia); 136.130 (Greece) and 136.166-136.168 (Latvia, Tunisia, Austria and Lithuania).

⁷ *Ibid*, paragraphs 136.103 (Belgium) and 136.106 (Argentina).

⁸ *Ibid*, paragraphs 136.17 (Palestine) and 136.46-136.49 (Germany, Romania, Japan and New Zealand).