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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**12<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (14 Sep-02 Oct 2009)**

**Consideration of the UPR Report of Afghanistan**

**Sep 24, 2009**

**Statement by India**

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome H.E. Dr Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai, Deputy Minister of Justice of Afghanistan, and thank him for the presentation of the Outcome Report of Afghanistan's Universal Periodic Review. We are pleased to note that Afghanistan has chosen to accept a majority of the recommendations made during its UPR process and consider this a reflection of Afghanistan's strong commitment to the protection and promotion of the human rights of its brave people.

No other country has perhaps undergone as much conflict and turmoil as Afghanistan has in the past three decades. It is commendable, therefore, that Afghanistan has been achieving a remarkable transformation of its polity in the last few years, having initiated wide-ranging reforms in the legal and judicial systems, created new human rights protection mechanisms and strengthened its civil society. The establishment of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the adoption of the Afghan National Development Strategy are particularly noteworthy. Afghanistan has achieved considerable progress in the realization of the MDGs and in the areas of education and women's rights. Recent developments, including the ratification of the 1976 Tripartite Consultation Convention 144 on International Labour Standards of the ILO, the adoption of the law on elimination of violence against women including domestic violence and the completion of the initial report on the Convention on the Rights of Child reaffirm that Afghanistan's commitment to human rights are indeed commendable.

Mr. President,

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We take this opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to the development of Afghanistan and wish the government of Afghanistan every success in the pursuit of the noble aspirations of its people.

Thank you Mr. President.