

NHRI (1)

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)
Oral Statement at Adoption of Afghanistan's UPR report, 24 September 2009
12th Human Rights Council Session (Agenda item 6)

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), a national human rights institution with A status accreditation under the Paris Principles.

The Commission makes the following observations with regard to the adoption of the UPR report on Afghanistan:

The AIHRC urges the government of Afghanistan to take practical steps to ensure that women can enjoy their rights to life and security, education, employment, access to justice and political participation.

The government should give priority to those programs within the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) that create employment opportunities both in urban and rural areas so as to prevent more displacement and risky migration. These programs should address immediately the needs of 44% of citizens living under poverty line and 75 % of the population who have not food security.

The AIHRC urges the Government to support and protect the rights to freedom of speech and freedom of expression, protect the life of journalists, and to ensure that no individual is detained for expressing his thoughts or for sharing information with others.

The Government should value and positively respond to the recommendations of civil society organizations (CSOs) for the protection and promotion of human rights and social justice.

The AIHRC strongly urges the Government to fight corruption and end impunity, fostering all economic, social and political efforts to promote good governance in Afghanistan.

The AIHRC urges the domestic security forces, the Pro-government International Forces and the Anti Government Element to fully respect the IHL, and refrain from those actions causing civilian casualties.

The AIHRC expects from the Government to review and bring amendments to the existing laws to be in compliance with the international human rights treaties that Afghanistan is a party.

The AIHRC urges the Government to invite the Special Rapporteurs of the UN on thematic issues of human rights to visit Afghanistan.

The AIHRC would like to call on the Afghan government and state institutions to provide it with strong political and financial support to enable the AIHRC to fulfill its mandate.

Thank you all.