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ORAL STATEMENT ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF BANGLADESH Item 6: Universal Periodic Review - General Debate

UN Human Rights Council
48th session
13 September – 8 October 2021

Madame President,

At its third UPR review in 2018, Bangladesh accepted 178 out of 251 recommendations,¹ including the review of all existing and proposed legislation relating to freedom of expression, in line with international standards;² protection of the right to freedom of expression;³ prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment;⁴ conditions of detention;⁵ investigations into allegations of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions;⁶ and continued efforts to host nearly one million Rohingya refugees until they can return to their homes in safe, voluntary, dignified and secure conditions.⁷

With two years until Bangladesh's next review, we draw Member States' attention to our recent assessment of progress towards implementation of these recommendations - critical to improve the human rights situation.⁸ We are concerned that progress is patchy, with deeply disturbing reports that people with views critical of the government continued to be subjected to enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment.

We urge Bangladesh to take urgent and concrete steps to implement all accepted

¹ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12/Add.1, Addendum, 31 August 2018, pg2

² UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, paras. 147.68 (Ireland), 148.13 (Mexico), 147.7 (Latvia), 148.14 (Norway), 148.15 (Sweden), 149.46 (USA), 149.45 (Estonia), 149.49 (Greece).

³ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, paras. 148.3 (Australia), 147.71 (Switzerland), 147.67 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 147.74 (Poland), 147.65 (Slovakia), 147.66 (Canada), 147.73 (New Zealand), 147.70 (France), 147.69 (Estonia).

⁴ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, paras. 148.12 (Italy), 147.80 (Republic of Korea).

⁵ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, para. 147.84 (Malaysia).

⁶ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, paras. 147.12 (Italy), 147.8 (France), 147.80 (Republic of Korea).

⁷ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – *Bangladesh*, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, para. 147.164 (Yemen).

⁸ Amnesty International, Bangladesh Mid-Term UPR Assessment, 22 September 2021, Index: ASA 13/4732/2021, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa13/4732/2021/en/

recommendations and, in particular, to end the crackdown on right to freedom of expression; bring all legislation in line with international human rights law; and include provisions for effective remedy and adequate reparations for human rights violations.

Madame President,

The situation on the ground highlights the pertinence of other recommendations that Bangladesh did not support at the previous review, including ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;⁹ and responding positively to the pending visit requests by Special Procedures.¹⁰ We urge Bangladesh to reconsider its position and to implement these recommendations without further delay.

Thank you.

⁹ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Bangladesh, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, paras. 149.5, 149.6.

¹⁰ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Bangladesh, UN Doc, A/HRC/39/12, 11 July 2018, paras. 149.20.