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ORAL STATEMENT Item 6: Consideration of UPR reports: Turkmenistan

UN Human Rights Council
55th session
28 February – 5 April 2024

Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes Turkmenistan's support for recommendations¹ to facilitate all pending requests for visits by special procedure mandate holders, investigate human rights violations such as enforced disappearances, politically-motivated arrests, torture and other ill-treatment and to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.¹

We urge Turkmenistan to act promptly to fulfil its commitment to allow special procedure mandate holders unhindered access to the country, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on torture.²

Turkmenistan has to date remained virtually closed to independent human rights scrutiny despite repeated assertions to the contrary.

We regret that Turkmenistan failed to support recommendations by 13 states to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.³

We are further deeply disappointed that Turkmenistan declined to support all 29 recommendations⁴ on gender-based discrimination, thereby failing to commit to protect the rights of women and girls and LGBTI persons, to combat gender-based violence, and to decriminalise consensual sexual relations between men. We urge Turkmenistan to reverse its position and commit to implementing these recommendations.

Finally, we encourage Turkmenistan to implement supported recommendations swiftly and in good faith. We urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards this implementation and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Thank you.

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Turkmenistan, UN Doc. A/HRC/55/4, 22 December 2023, recommendations 99.12 (Austria), 99.35 (Canada), 99.58 (Belgium)

² Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Turkmenistan, A/HRC/55/4, 22 December 2022, recommendations 100.28, 100.29 (France, Netherlands).

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Turkmenistan, A/HRC/55/4, 22 December 2022, recommendations 100.16-100.27 (Uruguay, UK & NI, Malta, Latvia, Ukraine, Moldova, Niger, Germany, France, Estonia, Chile, Morocco)

⁴ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review -Turkmenistan, A/HRC/55/4, 22 December 2023, recommendations 100.53 – 100.82 (Estonia, Iceland x3, Uruguay x2, Canada, Costa Rica, Iraq, Australia, USA, Montenegro x2, Spain x3, Paraguay, Croatia, Argentina, Luxembourg, Italy, Chile, France, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Portugal, Netherlands, Brazil).