



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad during the 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR Review of Greece**

**39<sup>th</sup> UPR Session**

**01 November 2021**

**Madam President,**

We thank Greece for presentation of its 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR report and appreciate its cooperation with the mechanism.

We acknowledge the legislative and administrative measures to promote human rights in the country including the adoption of National Action Plans on Racism, Rights of Children and Persons with Disabilities.

Greece's efforts in countering the COVID induced socio-economic and health challenges are encouraging.

We share concerns over growing incidents of hate speech as well as racist and xenophobic violence against refugees and migrants. Reports of collective expulsions and push-backs of migrants, and refugees on land and sea borders are worrying.

We recommend Greece to:

- 1) Revisit policies and measures to prevent and counter hate speech and violence especially against migrants and refugees in compliance with its international obligations;
- 2) Provide necessary training to law enforcement officials to effectively investigate racially motivated crimes and hold the perpetrators accountable.
- 3) Establish effective mechanism to counter push backs of migrants and refugees and ensure adherence to the principle of non-refoulment. I thank you.