



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during the 3rdUPR
Review of Eswatini**

39th UPR Session

08 November 2021

Madam President,

We thank Eswatini for presenting its 3rd UPR report and highlighting recent steps to protect and promote human rights.

Acknowledging commitment of Eswatini to strengthen national human rights framework, we welcome the consultative process for promoting operational and financial independence of the National Human Rights Commission.

We commend efforts to build social protection floors and address structural vulnerabilities including through implementation of the National Strategic Framework. Enactment of Domestic Violence Act 2018 and steps to promote women empowerment are also noteworthy. We encourage Eswatini to accelerate efforts for economic and social empowerment of women.

We recommend Eswatini to:

- a) Continue to take measures to bring national human rights framework in line with Eswatini's international human rights obligations.
- b) Expedite efforts for the finalization of Human Rights and Public Administration Bill which would further strengthen National Human Rights Commission.

I thank you.