Statement by Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Deputy Permanent Representative on the Report of the Human Rights Council under agenda item: 64
13 November 2013

Chairperson,

My delegation thanks H.E. Ambassador Henczel, President of the Human Rights Council for his annual report. We appreciate his extensive engagement during the past one year. We are also appreciative of this opportunity to engage in an interactive dialogue with him.

Chairperson,

In 2006, we created the Human Rights Council as a forum for dialogue on human rights issue through the adoption on GA resolution 60/251. The same resolution clearly specifies the mandate of the Council, which is stemmed on the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation. Council's aim is to assist the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings. The institutional mechanisms adopted are significantly positioned to bring positive changes in ensuring universally agreed human rights.

Chairperson:

We believe that Council's innovative UPR mechanism has proved to be a universal and effective mechanism, as its strength lies on non-selectivity. It involves all countries irrespective of their size and influence. The peer review can create an environment of trust and mutual understanding among member states. As a founding member of the Human Rights Council, Bangladesh has been always supportive to the work of the Council. Bangladesh underwent its second cycle of UPR early this year. Under an environment of constructive dialogue, we accepted as many as 164 recommendations.

Chairperson,

The system of Special Procedures is also important in promotion and protection of universal human rights. The success of such procedure lies on the credibility and objectivity of the mandate holders. The mandate holders must strictly follow the respective code of conducts which are meticulously crafted and adopted unanimously.
Currently we notice creation of new mandate holders. The Council should be careful while establishing new mandate holders so that such action does not prove to be unnecessary proliferation.

Mr. Chair:

We are appreciative of the Council's continued attention to the human rights situation of Palestinian people. We would urge the council to remain seized in addressing the issue of right to self-determination of Palestinian people.

Mr. Chair:

Finally, let me briefly touch upon the recent adoption of the HRC resolution 24/24. Like other delegations, we fully agree that any act of reprisal is unacceptable. While we reject all acts of reprisal, we are concerned at the decision taken by the Human Rights Council to create the UN ‘focal point’ to prevent and promote accountability for reprisal and intimidation. Such decision must only be taken through extensive consultation of the universal membership in the General Assembly.

To conclude, we have a high expectation of the Human Rights Council. The forum should be nurtured for constructive dialogue within its mandate. The efforts should be to bring real change in the protection and promotion of universal human rights.

I thank you.