

14th Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Pakistan**Statement by Ambassador Daw Penjo, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan on 30th October 2012**

Madam President,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to H. E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and her delegation to this session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the ~~Hon~~ble Minister for her comprehensive presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan appreciates the numerous measures undertaken by the Government of Pakistan, since its last UPR in 2008, to promote human rights. In this regard, we note with appreciation the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and ratification of international human rights treaties such as ICESCR, ICCPR, and Optional Protocol to CRC. On the domestic front, establishment of numerous legislative framework and institutional mechanisms to enhance the protection of human rights, particularly the rights of the more vulnerable groups such as women and children are highly commendable. We also appreciate Pakistan's positive approach in its cooperation with the UN human rights mechanism which is indicated by the visits to the country by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and a number of special procedures.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

- i) Continue to strengthen its efforts in tackling poverty and enhancing access to basic social services, such as health and education, especially for those living in rural areas.
- ii) Expedite the adoption of the Charter of Child Rights Bill.

I thank you, Madam President.