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14th Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Sri Lanka

**Statement by Ambassador Daw Penjo, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Bhutan on 1st November 2012**

Madam President,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Sri Lanka led by H. E. Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, President's Special Envoy on Human Rights and Minister of Plantation Industries to this session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the Hon'ble Minister for his comprehensive presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan appreciates the significant measures taken by Sri Lanka to advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens. In this regard, launching of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights is highly commendable. We acknowledge the efforts to address the issue of land in the North and East of the country and **recommend** the Government of Sri Lanka to continue measures underway to address land issues, including amending the Prescription Ordinance, whereby displaced landowners will be able to defeat the adverse claims based on the running of time.

Madam President,

Sri Lanka recently emerged from a long drawn conflict. Peace building and reconstruction after such a protracted conflict takes time. In this regard, we hope the international community will extend its full cooperation and support to Sri Lanka.

I thank you, Madam President.