

15th Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Serbia**Statement by Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the UN on 30 January 2013**

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Republic of Serbia led by Her Excellency Mrs. Gordona Stamenic, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice. We thank Her Excellency for the detailed presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan appreciates the significant measures undertaken by the Government of Serbia to further promote and protect the human rights of its citizens and to address the challenges that it faces. In this regard, establishment of numerous domestic legislative framework and institutional mechanisms to enhance the protection of the rights of the children, women and minorities and, fight against human trafficking and domestic violence are highly commendable. We also note with appreciation the judicial reforms introduced by Serbia, as outlined in their National Report. These reforms would contribute towards guaranteeing an independent, transparent, effective and accountable judiciary, which would provide equality before the law and offer effective legal protection to its people.

Bhutan commends the numerous efforts taken by Serbia to fulfil its human rights obligations since its last review in 2008. Its ratification and accession to international human rights instruments such as CRPD and CPED are a demonstration of the commitment to further advance the human rights in the country. We would also like to commend Serbia's positive and constructive approach in its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

In conclusion, Bhutan would like to recommend Serbia to continue to strengthen the role of national human rights protection mechanisms.

I thank you, Mr. President.