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15th Session of UPR Working Group: Review of United Arab Emirates

Statement by Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UN on 28 January 2013.

Mr. President,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to H. E. Dr. Anwar Mohammad Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and his delegation to this session of the UPR Working Group. We thank His Excellency for the comprehensive presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan appreciates the significant measures undertaken by the Government of UAE for the promotion and protection of human rights of its citizens. While noting with appreciation the establishment of a National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, we would like to pose the following question to the delegation: *"What are the mechanisms that have been devised to deal with victims of human trafficking in terms of support and rehabilitation to these victims?"*

Mr. President,

Bhutan applauds the numerous efforts undertaken by the Government of UAE in fulfilling its human rights commitments. In this regard, its accession to numerous international human rights instruments and its constructive engagements with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is a clear reflection of UAE's commitment to advance the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people. We encourage the Government of UAE to continue this positive cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.

In conclusion, Bhutan would like to **recommend** that UAE continue to strengthen the role of its national mechanisms and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

I thank you, Mr. President.