

**16th Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Turkmenistan
Statement by Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of
the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UN on 22 April 2013**

Mr. President,

Bhutan joins the previous speakers in extending a warm welcome to H. E. Mr. Wepa Hajiyeu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan to this session of the UPR Working Group. We thank His Excellency for the detailed presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan appreciates the numerous measures undertaken by the Government of Turkmenistan to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens. In this regard, adoption of numerous domestic legislations such as the International Treaties Act of Turkmenistan, the Social Protection Act, the Criminal Sentence Administration Code, the Family Code, etc. are highly commendable.

Bhutan applauds the many efforts undertaken by the Government of Turkmenistan in fulfilling its human rights obligations including through accession to the Optional Protocols of international human rights instruments such as CEDAW and CRPD. It has also incorporated many provisions of the international human rights agreements into its domestic legislations. These are a clear demonstration of Turkmenistan's commitment to further advance the fundamental freedoms and rights of its citizens.

In conclusion, Bhutan would like to make the following recommendations:

- i) Continue to promote and protect rights of women and children through the adoption of necessary domestic legislation.
- ii) Continue to review national legislation in order to ensure that it is in line with State's international human rights obligations.

I thank you, Mr. President.

