

**17<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Mauritius**

**Statement by Amb. Daw Penjo, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan on 23 October 2013.**

Mr. President,

My delegation joins the previous speakers in extending a warm welcome to His Excellency Dr. Arvin Boolell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritius to this Session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the Hon'ble Minister for his detailed presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan is very happy to learn that the promotion and protection of human rights in Mauritius is guided by the basic philosophy, of 'Putting People First'. This resonates with the concept of Bhutan's 'Gross National Happiness', the essence of which is people's well-being and happiness.

We note with appreciation that Mauritius has implemented most of the recommendations made during its last review. Enactment of new domestic legislations such as the Protection of the Human Rights (amendment) act 2012 and the Combatting of Trafficking in Persons Act are highly commendable.

We also take note of its positive achievements in the protection of the rights of Women, Children and Disabled persons. We commend Mauritius for the launching of a National Plan of Action to combat domestic violence and measures taken to create awareness on human rights through human rights education and training programs for the law enforcement officials.

In conclusion, Bhutan would like to recommend the government of Mauritius to continue implementing measures underway to intensify efforts in providing capacity building and training programs on human rights for its law enforcement officials as well as judicial and legal officials.

I thank you, Mr. President