

17th Session of UPR Working Group: Review of Saudi Arabia

**Statement by Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UN
on 21 October 2013.**

Mr. President,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to this session of the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive presentation of their National Report.

Bhutan appreciates the significant measures carried out by Saudi Arabia for the promotion and protection of human rights of its citizens. In this regard, adoption of numerous domestic legislations such as the Trafficking in Persons (Offences) Act, the Enforcement Act, the Arbitration Act, the Mortgage Act, etc. are noteworthy.

Bhutan also applauds the numerous efforts undertaken by Saudi Arabia in fulfilling its human rights commitments. In this regard, its accession to two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its positive and constructive engagement with the international human rights mechanisms are highly commendable. We also note with appreciation the adoption of a Child Protection Act and preparation of an implementing regulation on the procedural mechanisms for the application of this Act.

In conclusion, Bhutan would like to **recommend** that Saudi Arabia continue to strengthen domestic legislation to promote and protect the rights of women, children, domestic workers and the migrant workers.

I thank you, Mr. President.