

18th Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Afghanistan

Statement by Amb. Daw Penjo, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan on 27th January 2014.

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the high level delegation of Afghanistan to this session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for the comprehensive presentation of its national report, which gives a clear picture of its human rights development since its first review in 2009 and the challenges they continue to face.

Bhutan would like to commend the efforts made towards improving the human rights situation in Afghanistan despite the formidable challenges and constraints it faces. We applaud the significant strides that Afghanistan has taken in meeting those challenges to promote political, economic and social rights of its population. In particular, Bhutan would like to commend the initiative taken in the area of rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children. Passing of a law on Elimination of Violence against Women to take action against its perpetrators and subsequent establishment of the Special Prosecution Office for countering the violence against women and the establishment of the Commission for Elimination of Violence against Women are noteworthy.

In conclusion, we have two recommendations for Afghanistan

1. Further increase its efforts to ensure access to education and health care to all including people with disabilities.
2. Ensure gender equity in higher education institutions of the country by increasing the number of female students.

I thank you Mr. President