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18th Session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Yemen
Tashi Peldon, First secretary
**Statement by ~~Amb. Daw Penjo~~, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of
Bhutan on 29th January 2014.**

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the high level delegation of Yemen to this session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for the updates on the human rights development in Yemen since its first review in 2009 and the challenges it continues to face.

We commend the intensified efforts being made by Yemen to ensure the promotion and protection of its human rights despite its difficult economic situation. Initiative such as the National Human Rights Conference that was held in 2012 and the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the human rights abuses committed in 2011 are significant achievements.

We also appreciate Yemen for adopting measures to eliminate discrimination against women and to combat exploitation of children. In particular, the adoption of the Rural Women Development Strategy and the National Agricultural Sector Strategy 2011–2015; its engagement with the United Nations to put an end on the recruitment of children to the Armed Forces, to demobilize child soldiers and to support their reintegration are laudable.

We note from its national report, that poverty and unemployment is one of the most important challenges Yemen faces, with more than 50% of its population living below the poverty line and 44% of its people between the ages of 25-59 unemployed. In this respect, Bhutan would like to recommend to Yemen to continue to work with and seek the support of the international community for technical and financial assistance to overcome these grave challenges.

I thank you, Mr. President.