

UPR 19 – BHUTAN

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

*The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Bhutan.*

While commending Bhutan for steps undertaken since the last UPR such as passing the Anti-Corruption Act in 2011 and the Domestic Violence Prevention Bill in 2013, the Czech Republic encourages the Government making human rights advances in the following areas:

First, we **recommend** that Bhutan invite, without delay, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit the country and issue a standing invitation to all special procedures.

Second, we **recommend** that Bhutan carry on a dialogue with Nepal to find acceptable solutions for the remaining Bhutan refugees of Nepal origin in Nepal refugee camps.

Third, we **recommend** ensuring the protection and advancement of women's rights, especially in rural areas, and, in particular, promoting wider participation of women in politics and decision-making on national and local levels and strengthening combatting violence against women and children.

Finally, we **recommend** enacting amendments to the Electoral Code to ensure a broader participation of all citizens in the electoral process and equal enjoyment of the right to vote and to stand for elections.