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**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Nineteenth Session**

**Statement by the Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United
Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Review of Bhutan

(Geneva, 30th of April 2014)

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

The delegation of Egypt welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the 19th session of the UPR, and thanks it for the elaborate presentation of the national report.

The last four years witnessed significant developments in consolidating democracy in Bhutan, most notably the successful conclusion of the parliamentary elections in July 2013. These developments were accompanied with important progress in many areas related to human rights, including but not restricted to enacting the law on prevention of domestic violence, conducting institutional judicial reforms, widening the space of freedoms of press and media, increasing enrollment rates in primary education with special focus on girls, and achieving significant advances in eradicating poverty even beyond the nationally set targets.

On the other hand, we are conscious that the Government is still facing persisting challenges in addressing youth unemployment and ensuring food security. Egypt takes note of the measures taken by the Government in this regard, and encourages Bhutan to maintain its vigilant commitment in these two areas.

Bhutan is still among the LDCs, and thus its capacity to proceed further in relation to human rights and achieving MDGs relies considerably on international cooperation through fulfilling the commitments of its development partners. To this effect, we invite the delegation to share with the Council the national priorities where the Government envisions that stepping up international cooperation can support national efforts to protect and promote human rights.

In conclusion, we submit the following recommendations for the kind consideration of the Government of Bhutan:

- 1- To consider the possibility of acceding to ICESCR and ICRMW.**
- 2- To strengthen its national efforts in promoting human rights education and training.**
- 3- To continue to provide, in accordance with its obligations under International Human Rights Law, the widest possible protection and support for the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society.**

I thank you.

