Mister President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Bhutan and acknowledges recent positive developments in the country that have led to a peaceful and democratic change of government last year. Germany commends steps taken to heed the recommendations of last cycle, notably the passing of the Domestic Violence Prevention Bill last year.

Germany wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Germany recommends that Bhutan ratifies all core international human rights treaties, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
2. Germany recommends that Bhutan continues to give priority attention to the protection of women and children from domestic violence, including by implementing and closely monitoring the impact of the Domestic Violence Prevention Bill.
3. Germany recommends that Bhutan contributes to an acceptable solution for the people living in refugee camps and to give particular attention to the elderly and to those that were separated from their families.

Thank you.

**Questions submitted in advance**

1. Given a number of restrictions to active and passive franchise that infringe on the full and equal enjoyment of civil rights, in particular the right to take part in the government of the country, does Bhutan intend to ease some of these restrictions in order to increase the number of citizens entitled to vote and to run for public office?
2. In 2009, Bhutan accepted the recommendation to promote and ensure freedom of religion for all individuals of all faiths. Which steps have been taken to meet this commitment and is Bhutan planning to revise relevant provisions of the Religious Organizations Act that currently limit the free exercise of religion?
3. With regard to national laws that curtail the right to freedom of assembly and association, which measures is Bhutan considering to ensure accordance of national law with constitutional provisions and international commitments?
4. How did Bhutan involve civil society in the preparation of its UPR process?