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THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW,
NINETEENTH SESSION (28 APRIL-9 MAY 2014) - SECOND CYCLE REVIEW

STATEMENT BY GHANA DELIVERED BY MR EBENEZER APPREKU, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. AND
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON REVIEW OF BHUTAN HELD ON MONDAY, 30 APRIL 2014

I thank you Mr President for giving me the floor.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Bhutan and commends Portugal's commitment to the UPR mechanism. Ghana applauds Bhutan for the positive steps taken to implement the recommendations it accepted since its first cycle review.

We note in paragraph 8 of the national report that Bhutan acknowledges the assistance provided by its development partners and the UN specialized agencies in the implementation of the recommendations. Therefore instead of waiting till it has built the capacity of its human resources and institutions as indicated in paragraph 138 of its report, Ghana would rather recommend that Bhutan ratifies the other core human rights treaties including the CCPR. This will enable Bhutan to redouble its national effort and motivation as well as place the country in a better and more strategic position to seek further international assistance, as appropriate, to develop its national capacity to discharge its treaty obligations

Among the ultimate purposes of for the pursuit of human rights is the enhancement of the dignity and happiness of the individual- So could the delegation throw more light on the work and function of the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan which took part in the preparation of the national report.

Ghana recommends that Bhutan considers the ratification of the United Nations Migrant Workers Convention.

Ghana wishes the delegation of Bhutan a successful review

I thank you, Mr President