

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Thongphane SAVANPHET  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR  
At the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of UPR Working Group  
Geneva, 28 April - 9 May 2014**

Review of Bhutan on 30 April 2014 at 14:30-18:00 hours

Mr. President,

The Lao Delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Bhutan to the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of UPR Working Group, and would like to thank for a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in Bhutan.

We are pleased to note that Bhutan is deeply committed to ensuring promotion and protection of all human rights of its people, and that a number of important legislations relating to human rights have been passed by its Parliament. We also take note that Bhutan has accepted a large number of recommendations and has taken necessary steps to implement those recommendations.

We commend the Government of Bhutan for its success in poverty alleviation, and Bhutan is also on track to achieving most MDGs by 2015 or earlier. We appreciate efforts made by Bhutan in ensuring gender equality, youth employment, and access to free education for all children and free health care services from primary to tertiary level for all peoples.

In this regard, my Delegation encourages Bhutan to continue its cooperation with the UN and other International Organizations to overcome the remaining challenges and difficulties.

I thank you, Mr. President.