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STATEMENT BY MAURITIUS AT THE 19TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP-
CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF BHUTAN
30 APRIL 2014

Thank You Vice -
Mr President

We would like to thank H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs for the detailed presentation of the national UPR report of Bhutan.

Mauritius congratulates the Government of Bhutan for the successful second Parliamentary elections held in 2013 and the various positive steps taken to consolidate the institutional frameworks for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country, in particular the strengthening of the Judiciary both through institutional capacity-building and human resources; and the adoption of various legislations such as the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Child Care and Protection Act.

We ~~also~~ commend Bhutan for its continued efforts in making primary education compulsory, free of costs and accessible for all despite the challenges of having its population scattered over mountainous regions.

~~We have noted the high rate of infant mortality in Bhutan and~~ We recommend the Government of Bhutan to continue its efforts to improve the quality of health services for mothers and children including the education of pregnant women and mothers with a view to decreasing maternal and neonatal mortality rate and to seek the assistance of the international community with a view to providing better health services to its people.

Mauritius ^{also} commends the Government of Bhutan for its laudable initiative in promoting Happiness as a new development paradigm and for sharing its experiences with the international community with a view to making Happiness a fundamental universal development goal.

I also avail of this opportunity to wish the delegation of Bhutan a successful consideration of its second UPR report.

Vice -
I thank you, Mr President.