

Please check against delivery

Statement by the Delegation of Nepal, at an interactive dialogue with the Delegation of Bhutan during the 19th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 30 April 2014

Mr. President,

Nepal welcomes the delegation of Bhutan led by H.E. *Lyempo Damcho*.... *Dorji, Hon'ble Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs*, and thanks for the comprehensive presentation of the national report.

The report outlines the efforts made by Bhutan towards the promotion and protection of human rights and strengthening of democracy. The commitment of the Royal Government of Bhutan to ending violence against women and enhancing their mainstreaming is noteworthy. Further measures to enhance their representation in political and decision making process would be vial. We recommend Bhutan to continue taking measures for the protection of the rights of senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities and minorities while giving utmost priority to the provision of social security in all regions of the country.

Mr. President,

Nepal has given shelter to a large number of Bhutanese refugees in the UNHCR coordinated camps in eastern Nepal on humanitarian ground. The refugee problem has its origins in discriminatory practices. We stress that repatriation of all refugees with full dignity and honor into the Bhutanese national life is the only durable solution to this protracted problem. It is sad to note that not a single refugee already verified by the Nepal-Bhutan Joint Verification team has been allowed to go back home, despite Bhutan's commitments. We urge Bhutan to take an early initiative in this regard.

Mr. President,

While wishing Bhutan all success in its UPR engagement, my delegation would like to recommend it to continue efforts to make its democratization process more inclusive and development oriented.

I thank you Mr. President.