

UPR 19th SESSION
COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: BHUTAN

73

Intervention by Turkey

30 April 2014

Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of Bhutan for its National Report and comprehensive presentation.

We have observed with pleasure that important legislation, including the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Child Care and Protection Act and the Anti-Corruption Act was adopted during the reporting period.

Steps taken towards strengthening the judiciary are praiseworthy. Likewise anti-corruption measures deserve credit as Bhutan is ranked the highest within South Asia.

As the youngest democracy, Bhutan passed an important test with the conduct of second parliamentary elections last year. We welcome the dedication of the new Government of Bhutan to uphold democracy and protect the freedom and independence of the media. The political participation of women in the elections and the appointment of the first woman minister of Bhutan are commendable steps. Yet we believe that the Bhutanese women deserve and can do more.

Progress toward ensuring gender equality in education and meeting the needs of vulnerable children are encouraging developments. We recommend the Government to establish an effective organisation within the Government for implementing the child protection program as an initial step.

We also welcome Government's determination to further reduce poverty and achieve food security. We recommend the Bhutanese Government to attach more attention to job creation, especially addressing youth unemployment.

Cognizant of the challenges and the constraints that Bhutan faces, we commend the commitments of Bhutan, especially its readiness to contribute to human rights activities at national and international levels.