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STATEMENT BY BHUTAN ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF EGYPT, WEDNESDAY, 05TH OCTOBER 2014: 20TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP

Mr. President,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Egypt and thank them for update presented this morning on the human rights development of their country.

We acknowledge and recognise the huge challenges the country is facing, amid recent political turbulence.

Notwithstanding these impediments, we applaud the Government and the people of Egypt for having been able to come together to complete the national road map and the parliamentary elections.

We also appreciate the measures taken in promoting and protecting the rights of women and in particular, we welcome the efforts taken to educate women about human rights, violence against women, early marriage, the legal and political rights of women, as well as other issues touching on the social and economic conditions of society.

We note from the report before us that unemployment is one of the fundamental obstacles preventing citizens from enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights and in this regard Bhutan would like to make two recommendations:

1. To continue with its effort to combat short-and long-term unemployment, in consultation with the private sector and the providers of education.
2. To continue with its efforts to reduce poverty, in particular, to increase its focus on anti-poverty programmes in rural areas

I thank you, Mr. President