

Statement by Bhutan

Tashi Peltse
First Secretary

UPR of Iraq, 20th Session of the UPR Working Group, Monday, 03rd Nov
2014.

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Mr. President,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the ~~Iraqi delegation~~ ^{delegation of Iraq}, and thank them for the oral update presented to us on the human rights development since their first UPR.

We appreciate the fact that despite the scale of challenges Iraq is confronted with; it has made significant efforts in implementing the recommendations received during their first UPR and made notable progress in developing institutional structures to improve its overall human rights development.

The creation of the National Centre for Human Rights; ~~the High Commission for Human Rights~~; Adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women; Creation of the High Commission for the Advancement of Women in Rural Areas and the Adoption of Act on the eradication of Illiteracy are some measures that we welcome.

We have two recommendations for Iraq:

1. Continue with its effort to ensure that children have access to education and health care especially in rural areas, and
2. Continue its efforts aimed at combating the gender gap by ensuring that girls have equal access to school, especially in rural areas.

In conclusion, we would like to wish the delegation of Iraq all the best in overcoming the critical challenges it is confronted with.

I thank you, Mr. President.