

Tashi Pelden
First Secretary

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Statement by Bhutan

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (Lao People's Democratic Republic), 21st Session, 20th January 2015.

Mr. President,

distinguished

Bhutan would like to welcome the delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic and thank them providing us a detailed account of the human rights developments undertaken since their first review.

According to the report compiled by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the government of Lao People's Democratic Republic has, since the previous UPR review, enacted or amended important national laws to bring about positive reforms in human rights development. We would like to commend the government of Lao People's Democratic Republic for this initiatives which clearly demonstrate their seriousness and commitment to human rights development.

We are also pleased ^{to} note the establishment of several inter-agency mechanisms established to promote and protect human rights, such as the national steering committee on the preparations for the ratification and implementation of the International conventions on human rights and the national steering committee on human rights.

Further, the measures undertaken to enhance and promote gender equality and the advancement of women are highly appreciative.

We would like to recommend the government of Lao People's Democratic Republic to:

1. Strengthen its efforts to achieve the MDG targets in the areas of maternal and child mortality and the environment by end of 2015, which we understand is currently lacking behind.
2. Strengthen and continue to seek further assistance from the international community to support its efforts towards development and in effectively implementing the recommendations arising from its UPRs.

I thank you Mr. President.