

Delivered by Tashi Peldor
First Secretary.

Twenty Third UPR Working Group: Australia

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Thank you Mr. President,

Bhutan would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Australia to the 23rd Session of the UPR Working Group.

Australia is a close friend of Bhutan and it serves as one of the best models for democracy for young democratic Bhutan.

Bhutan recognizes Australia's strong tradition of commitment to human rights and its contribution to supporting human rights internationally.

Bhutan commend Australia for its strong national framework surrounding the protection of all children in Australia and in particular welcome the establishment of a National Children's Commissioner, which marks a significant step in the protection of the rights and interests of children. In the same connection, we also welcome Australian Government's announcement of a plan to provide vulnerable children with better access to early childhood services through the Child Care Safety Net. We recommend Australia to continue with its efforts in this area.

In conclusion we would like to express our appreciation for Australia's Overseas Aid Program to the Asia Pacific Region and for the cooperation extended to Bhutan in developing human resource capacity.

Thank you.