**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Bhutan,**

**47th Session, November 6, 2024**

**As Delivered by Tim Johnson**

* Thank you, Mr. Vice President.
* The United States welcomes the delegation from Bhutan.
* We appreciate Bhutan’s continued commitment to human rights and commend the government for holding its fourth democratic election. We welcome Bhutan’s decriminalization of same-sex relations between consenting adults.
* We remain concerned by restrictions on civil society, limits on freedom of association, and reports of discrimination against members of religious and ethnic minorities.
* In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that Bhutan:

1. Eliminate restrictive financial requirements for civil society organizations to legally operate and allow them to organize freely.
2. Amend the Nationality Law of Bhutan to extend birthright citizenship to individuals born in Bhutan who would otherwise be stateless, including members of religious and ethnic minorities.
3. Allow independent observers, including diplomats and representatives of international organizations, to visit prisons.
4. Become a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

* I thank you.