**39th Session of the UPR Working Group - Review of Ireland**

**Statement by the Delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan**

Bhutan welcomes the delegation of Ireland to the UPR and thanks the delegation for the presentation of their national report.

We commend Ireland for its commitment in implementing the recommendations from the last UPR cycles and note with appreciation the submission of its voluntary mid-term report. We note the significant achievements since its last review, in strengthening the human rights infrastructure. Key achievements, such as the 36th amendment of the Constitution Act, enactment of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, repeal of laws related to offences of blasphemy and the adoption of various national equality strategies are highly noteworthy.

We welcome the measures taken to further improve access to justice, in particular, the establishment of the Judicial Council, the operationalization of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority and the Court Service modernization programme. We recommend Ireland to continue its efforts and consider reform measures related to the legal aid system to ensure improved legal aid schemes, particularly for the low income groups.

We wish Ireland a successful UPR.

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