Statement of Portugal

33rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

**Bhutan**

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Bhutan and salutes the progress made since the last cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, particularly the streghthening of the National Commission for Women and Children.

We recommend that Bhutan:

1. Explicitly defines and criminalizes the sale of children and develops other mechanisms to address child trafficking;
2. Takes concrete measures to improve literacy equally amongst boys and girls.
3. Take concrete measures in order to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members

Finally, we reiterate the recommendation that Bhutan ratifies the following instruments:

1. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and both its Optional Protocols;
2. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol;
3. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment and its Optional Protocol;

Thank you Mr President.