**Statement of Hungary on Bhutan**

**33nd Session of the UPR Working Group, 8 May 2019**

**Mr. President,**

Hungary welcomes the delegation of Bhutan and thanks for its detailed national report and update.

We value the fact that Bhutan attaches great importance to the UPR process and considers it to be an effective, transparent and constructive mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The efforts taken by Bhutan in implementing 102 out of 103 accepted recommendations from the second UPR cycle are highly commendable. We particularly value that greater impetus has been given on women and children issues in the 12th Five Year Development Plan, and appreciate the Government’s reforms in health and education.

We believe that despite the considerable efforts of the Royal Government to address challenges in the country, there remains room for further improvement.

With this in mind, Hungary recommends that the Royal Government:

* Continue its engagement to ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of victims of trafficking in women and girls, including by providing them with access to shelters, legal and medical assistance.
* Take further measures to decrease the high rate of youth unemployment.
* Strengthen efforts and provide nationwide access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, in particular in rural and poor urban areas.
* Elaborate targeted interventions alongside the existing good practices to reduce the widening income disparity and other forms of inequalities.

Hungary values the Government’s commitment to decrease poverty, we encourage Bhutan to continue its efforts, to manage the significant rural-urban disparities. Therefore, we invite Bhutan to give further attention in the 12th FYP to this issue and do its utmost to eradicate poverty.

Thank you, Mr. President!