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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bhutan

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Bhutan was held at the 6th meeting on 30 April 2014. The delegation of Bhutan was headed by H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs. At its 10th meeting held on 2 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Bhutan
2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bhutan: Maldives, Peru and South Africa.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bhutan:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BTN/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BTN/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BTN/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Bhutan through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The leader of the Bhutanese delegation H.E. Mr. Damcho Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs re-iterated Bhutan's unremitting commitment to further protect and promote the fundamental rights and freedom of its people as enshrined in the Constitution of Bhutan. He added that many provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been incorporated in the Constitution and that they have immensely influenced provisions relating to human rights.
6. The Minister referred to the country's first Constitutional Case of the Opposition Vs. the Government in August 2010, where the Supreme Court ruled that the government had erred in revising taxes without following due legislative process, as an example of the independence of judiciary.
7. The Minister stated that as recommended at the last UPR, Bhutan made concerted efforts to realize the adoption of Domestic Violence Prevention Act, Child Adoption Act and Child Care and Protection Act. These Acts provide the necessary legal framework for the protection and promotion of Women and Children in accordance with the Country's national policies as well as commitment under the CRC and CEDAW, of which Bhutan is a State Party. The rules and regulations for these Acts are in the final stages.

8. The Minister said Bhutan's democratic process has been further consolidated under His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck with the successful holding of the Local Government elections in 2011 and the second Parliamentary elections in 2013.
9. Realizing the importance of a strong and professional media, the Bhutan Media Foundation was established through a Royal Charter in 2010. The monthly "Meet the Press" program by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet ensures access to the government at the highest level.
10. The Minister pointed out that the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), which is an autonomous agency that coordinates and monitors policies and activities related to protection and promotion of rights of women and children.
11. The Minister said the Royal Government of Bhutan continues to attach high importance to the social sectors and its pro-poor policies. In the on-going 11th Five Year Plan, more than 20 per cent of the total outlay is allocated to education and health.
12. The Royal Government also ensured that the 11th Five Year Plan places more emphasis on gender issues and women's empowerment in all its policies and national plans. The government has also pledged to explore quota system for women's participation in the electoral process.
13. The Minister said Bhutan is fully committed to ensuring gender equality in all aspects of electoral and democratic participation.
14. The Minister said that Bhutan has benefitted from constructive dialogue with the expert bodies in the past and in this spirit, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education has been invited to visit Bhutan in May 2014.
15. In order to protect and promote the inherent dignity of all, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities, Bhutan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010.
16. With regard to the recommendations received at the last UPR on acceding to the core Human Rights Instruments, the Minister explained that Bhutan must have the necessary legal framework, social institutions as well as human and financial resources in place to assume the treaty obligations and to abide by the instruments in letter and spirit. He assured the Council that as Bhutan's capacity is enhanced, it will consider acceding to the other international human rights instruments.
17. The Minister elaborated on the numerous initiatives undertaken by the Royal Government in addition to the recommendations received during the first review: such as the Open Air Prison System and Weekly Meet the People program between the Prime Minister and his Cabinet and the public.
18. As recommended to it during the first UPR in 2009 to share its concept of Gross National Happiness, Bhutan initiated a UN General Assembly resolution 65/308 entitled "Happiness: Towards a Holistic Approach to Development," which was adopted by consensus in 2011. Bhutan hosted a highly successful High-Level Meeting in April 2012 in New York. The report of the International Experts Working Group (IEWG) was submitted to the UN Secretary General last December as Bhutan's contribution to the post-2015 Development Agenda.
19. The Minister explained that Bhutan faced numerous challenges such as high rate of youth unemployment, uneven poverty rates across districts and regions and the problem of destitute economic migrants entering Bhutan illegally through the open borders. He also said that Bhutan has been subjected to terrorist acts.
20. Bhutan looked forward to having an open and constructive dialogue.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 88 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report. A number of delegations thanked Bhutan for its comprehensive report, commended the progress made since the first review in 2009 in the promotion and protection of human rights. Dialogue with civil society during the preparation of the national report was positively noted.

22. Austria commended the 2013 parliamentary elections, the development of democracy and institutionalization of an independent judiciary. It welcomed initiatives for women's safety and civil society development. It looked forward to Bhutan's repatriation of their refugees. Austria made recommendations.

23. Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption of laws and the establishment of a separate division for the protection of women and children. It congratulated Bhutan for strengthening legislation against corruption and noted poverty reduction efforts. Azerbaijan made recommendations.

24. Bahrain welcomed the national plans to protect human rights, dignity and justice. It also noted the measures regarding women's political participation, protection from violence and youth unemployment. It hoped Bhutan would continue efforts to protect vulnerable groups. It made recommendations.

25. Bangladesh congratulated Bhutan on its elections which had further consolidated the democratic process. It noted progress towards the MDGs and gender equality in education. It noted that poverty remained prevalent. Bangladesh made a recommendation.

26. Belarus welcomed the invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, and progress regarding human trafficking, corruption, and women's and children's rights. It noted that further efforts were needed to combat poverty and youth unemployment. Belarus made recommendations.

27. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) commended efforts to strengthen child protection, which would improve the Government's capacity to respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children. It made recommendations.

28. Botswana noted initiatives regarding social protection for vulnerable groups. It commended the Act on domestic violence. It was concerned by reports of child labour and abuse and urged Bhutan to implement child-protection legislation. Botswana made recommendations.

29. Brazil acknowledged consolidation of the democratic process. It noted the challenge of providing education for all. It expressed concern at violent and exploitative practices against women and children. Brazil made recommendations.

30. Brunei Darussalam congratulated Bhutan on the inclusive process adopted for the preparation of the report. It commended efforts to promote children's rights, particularly through provision of education. It welcomed youth unemployment programmes. It made recommendations.

31. Cambodia appreciated efforts to uphold the rule of law and strengthen democracy in the country. It noted legislative progress, including the adoption of child-protection laws. It commended awareness-raising events on human rights. Cambodia made recommendations.

32. Canada requested information on dialogue with Nepal concerning Bhutanese refugees, future initiatives and cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees. It applauded Bhutan's peaceful transition to democracy and noted its achievement of certain MDGs. Canada made recommendations.

33. Chad noted considerable progress in the implementation of recommendations and improvement of the human rights situation. It welcomed the inclusive report preparation process, which had involved consultation with many stakeholders. Chad made recommendations.
34. China commended investment in education and health, and efforts to promote gender equality and protect vulnerable groups. It acknowledged the challenges the country faced and called on the international community to provide support. China made recommendations.
35. Costa Rica noted measures to strengthen the judiciary and to promote a human rights culture through awareness-raising conferences. It invited Bhutan to continue its work on human rights education. It made recommendations.
36. Cuba commended investment in free education and health care and the attention given to the needs of children with disabilities. It noted social protection initiatives to enhance the population's quality of life. Cuba made a recommendation.
37. The Czech Republic commended Bhutan for steps undertaken, including the adoption of legislation against corruption and domestic violence. It encouraged Bhutan to make progress in various areas. It made recommendations.
38. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea appreciated the commitment, efforts and achievements in the field of human rights, including the implementation of previously accepted recommendations. It made recommendations.
39. Denmark commended Bhutan's constructive engagement and progress. It noted that Bhutan had not taken steps towards ratifying the CAT and highlighted the initiative which aimed for universal ratification of the CAT by providing assistance. Denmark made a recommendation.
40. Egypt noted the gradual consolidation of democracy, accompanied by progress regarding, inter alia, education and poverty. It noted challenges concerning youth unemployment and food security and encouraged ongoing commitment to those areas. Egypt made recommendations.
41. Eritrea noted efforts towards inclusive education for children with disabilities and progress towards the MDGs. It noted a decline in poverty but recognized that it still posed a major challenge. Eritrea made recommendations.
42. Ethiopia appreciated efforts to enhance the legislative framework in various areas. It welcomed Bhutan's development and poverty-reduction goals and encouraged further strengthening of efforts to tackle poverty. Ethiopia made recommendations.
43. France commended Bhutan on efforts to consolidate the democratic process and improve the human rights situation, and encouraged it to continue action in that vein. France made recommendations.
44. Gabon commended Bhutan's commitment to human rights. It welcomed the improvement of the legislative framework, including the adoption of Acts to prevent violence and corruption. Many challenges still needed to be addressed. Gabon made recommendations.
45. Germany acknowledged the positive developments that had led to the peaceful and democratic change of government. It commended steps to fulfil previous UPR recommendations, notably the enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. Germany made recommendations.

46. Ghana applauded steps to implement previous UPR recommendations. It requested clarification on the work and function of the Gross National Happiness Commission which took part on the preparation of the report. Ghana made a recommendation.
47. India commended Bhutan's commitment to democracy and free media, achievements in poverty reduction, efforts to consolidate the democratic process, and the holding of elections in 2013. It acknowledged the challenges facing Bhutan. India made recommendations.
48. Indonesia noted efforts to ensure women's political participation and the consideration of a quota system. It welcomed plans to reduce poverty and to assist vulnerable groups through targeted intervention. Indonesia made recommendations.
49. Iraq commended achievements in improving the human rights situation since the first UPR cycle, and initiatives to protect women and children from violence, as well as the strengthening of human rights legislation. It welcomed efforts to promote political, economic and social rights and to combat poverty.
50. Ireland encouraged adherence to international instruments. It noted the pending visit request by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion. It was concerned by prevalent malnutrition, resulting in child mortality and potential non-fulfilment of MDG 4. Ireland made recommendations.
51. Iran (Islamic Republic of) commended Bhutan's constructive engagement in the UPR process. It noted the drafting of rules and regulations under the Child Care and Protection Act. Bhutan's poverty reduction efforts and programmes were appreciated. It made recommendations.
52. Italy commended poverty alleviation efforts, steps towards ratifying international instruments and having ratified the CRC, OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC. Child marriage and employment were of concern. Italy made recommendations.
53. Jordan welcomed the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Child Care and Protection Act and the Anti-Corruption Act; and establishment of the National Commission for Women and Children. Jordan made recommendations.
54. Kazakhstan noted signature of the CRPD; adoption of domestic legislation; improved education and healthcare provision; and combating domestic violence and human trafficking. It welcomed the National Commission for Women and Children and improved human rights awareness. Kazakhstan made recommendations.
55. Kuwait commended progress in poverty alleviation, through programmes such as the Rural Economy, the Advancement Program and the National Rehabilitation Program for the most vulnerable groups. Kuwait made a recommendation.
56. Kyrgyzstan noted the recent reduction in poverty, and the provision of free education and healthcare. It supported anti-corruption measures, which had improved the situation. Kyrgyzstan made recommendations.
57. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the adoption of human rights legislation, and progress in poverty alleviation, gender equality, youth employment and access to free education and healthcare. It made a recommendation.
58. Latvia applauded ratification of the OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC. It highlighted the important role of special procedures in human rights. Latvia made recommendations.
59. Madagascar recognized the strengthened normative and institutional framework, and encouraged Bhutan to continue the democratic process. It noted progress in promoting the right to education, children's rights and right to health. Madagascar made recommendations.

60. Malaysia appreciated strengthening of national institutions, as it had previously recommended. It noted the strengthened rule of law and democracy, consolidated by successful elections in 2011 and 2013. Malaysia made a recommendation.

61. Maldives noted progress towards universal education, including for children with disabilities, requiring support from the international community. It noted the improved legislative framework. The Gross National Happiness Index had improved development indices. It made recommendations.

62. In response to women participation in politics, the delegation informed that in line with the current Government's pledge to have legislation on quota for women, the Commission (NCWC) has initiated many activities including establishment of an organization called the Bhutan Network for Empowering Women.

63. With regard to increasing access to justice for women victims of violence, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2013 allows domestic violence cases to be filed before the court by not only the Royal Bhutan Police but also by the Victim, Complainant, Protection Officer and the Service Provider. The involvement of the judiciary in issuing the Protection Order to victims also ensures and increases access to justice to the victims.

64. In response to the question on youth unemployment, the delegation informed that the Government is drafting the National Employment Policy; closer coordination between private sector and government agencies to better align skills with job availability; establishment of Business Opportunity and Information Centre (BOIC) to provide credit particularly to Small and Medium Enterprises; and possible overseas employment for youth have been initiated.

65. Mauritius welcomed the 2013 parliamentary elections. An improved institutional framework was supported by resources and legislation. Primary education was free and compulsory; and happiness was recognized as a development paradigm. Mauritius made a recommendation.

66. Mexico welcomed civil society participation in preparing the National Report. It expressed concern regarding the lack of ratification of international instruments, including ICCPR, CAT and the Rome Statute. Mexico made recommendations.

67. Mongolia highlighted strengthened democracy and rule of law; and new legislation promoting judicial independence and legal reform. It welcomed signature of the CRPD and urged become a party to other instruments. Mongolia made a recommendation.

68. Montenegro noted efforts to improve the institutional and legislative framework. It asked about plans to improve cooperation with international human rights mechanisms; and to prevent domestic violence and harmful traditional practices. Montenegro made recommendations.

69. Morocco commended promotion of "national happiness". It asked how Bhutan would combat youth unemployment; and for details of planned sustainable solutions to challenges related to education, healthcare, infrastructure and economy. Morocco made a recommendation.

70. Myanmar welcomed efforts towards poverty eradication, and Government programmes to provide free education until Grade 10. It noted new human rights legislation. Myanmar made recommendations.

71. Nepal applauded efforts to strengthen democracy, combat gender-based violence and enhance female representation in decision making. Repatriation of refugees was the only solution to the refugee crisis, and it urged Bhutan to cooperate. Nepal made recommendations.

72. The Netherlands commended Bhutan on its transition to a democratic constitutional monarchy, and efforts to achieve the MDGs. It was concerned that refugees wishing to return to Bhutan could not. It made recommendations.
73. Nicaragua recognized progress towards improving human rights, and commended support from the international community. It noted the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and The Child Care and Protection Act. Nicaragua made recommendations.
74. Oman noted the enactment of national legislation and efforts towards achieving the MDGs. Improving economic conditions, tackling unemployment, alleviating poverty and providing healthcare and education were national priorities. Oman made a recommendation.
75. Pakistan commended enactment of several new laws to advance human rights. It welcomed measures towards environmental conservation, which promoted development and economic rights. Pakistan made recommendations.
76. Paraguay noted the reduction in poverty, and welcomed legislation on domestic violence, creation of institutions to protect women and children, and programmes to protect vulnerable groups and empower local government. Paraguay made recommendations.
77. Peru appreciated efforts to consolidate democracy and the rule of law. It welcomed measures to promote economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. It encouraged international cooperation to face remaining challenges. Peru made recommendations.
78. Philippines acknowledged Bhutan's commitment to the rule of law; and to combat domestic violence, the gender gap in tertiary education and women's participation in politics. It noted legislation on human trafficking. It urged cooperation on climate change. It made recommendations.
79. Portugal welcomed the invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, and the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Child Care and Protection Acts. Gender-based violence was of concern. Portugal made recommendations.
80. Saudi Arabia noted progress in protecting children's rights; access to quality and gender-equal education; and combating domestic violence and human trafficking. It noted creation of the National Commission for Women and Children. It made recommendations.
81. Serbia welcomed laws to protect children's rights and prevent domestic violence, and encouraged their implementation. The National Commission for Women and Children should be able to fulfil its mandate. Serbia made a recommendation.
82. Sierra Leone applauded Bhutan's commitment to strengthening democracy and reducing poverty. Access to healthcare and good governance had improved. Bhutan should combat gender-based violence, increase women's access to justice and reduce youth unemployment. It made recommendations.
83. Singapore noted efforts to further the rule of law; strengthening judicial capacity and human resource development. It recognized improvements to the education system, and equal access thereto. Singapore made recommendations.
84. Slovenia welcomed the signing of the CRPD. It noted that the high incidence of child marriage was a major contributory factor to the significant number of low birth weight babies. Slovenia made recommendations.
85. Solomon Islands commended efforts to mainstream gender in development plans and policies and the commitment to collaborate with and support civil society organizations, given their critical role in advancing human rights. It made recommendations.

86. South Africa commended the priority given to environmental conservation, socioeconomic development, the preservation of culture and good governance. It encouraged further efforts to counter noncommunicable diseases and to promote, protect and fulfil human rights. It made recommendations.

87. South Sudan noted the commitment to strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights through the adoption of relevant legislation. It applauded initiatives to enhance democracy, notably through public awareness raising programmes. It made a recommendation.

88. Spain welcomed measures to promote inclusive education, especially for persons with disabilities, and efforts to combat gender-based violence. It was concerned about discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. It made recommendations.

89. Sri Lanka was encouraged by progress made towards the MDGs, although challenges remained such as food and nutrition security and chronic malnutrition among a third of children. It noted the commitment to environmental conservation. It made recommendations.

90. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to ensure that democracy took firm root, but noted challenges remained. The higher than national average youth unemployment rate also remained a concern. It made recommendations.

91. The Sudan highlighted Bhutan's alternative development model – Gross National Happiness – which placed emphasis on a more holistic approach to development, with people at the centre. Sudan made a recommendation.

92. Switzerland welcomed progress made in strengthening the democratic process. It remained concerned about the situation of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and that certain ethnic groups continued to suffer discrimination in Bhutan. Switzerland made recommendations.

93. The United Republic of Tanzania commended achievements in the successful elections, development plans, economic development, education, health care, food and nutrition security and youth unemployment. It made a recommendation.

94. Thailand welcomed the significant role played by the National Commission for Women and Children and the signing of the CRPD in 2010. It noted remaining challenges, including illegal immigrants and macroeconomic management. Thailand made recommendations.

95. Timor-Leste welcomed budgetary allocations to education and health and the priority given to guaranteeing free health services and primary education for all. It lauded progress made towards gender equality in education. It made recommendations.

96. Tunisia encouraged Bhutan to continue the Prime Minister's weekly meetings with the people, and to ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and other actors were able to carry out their activities. Tunisia made a recommendation.

97. Turkey welcomed the adoption of relevant legislation and progress towards strengthening the judiciary and combating corruption, gender equality in education, meeting the needs of vulnerable children, reducing poverty and achieving food security. Turkey made recommendations.

98. Turkmenistan welcomed the strengthening of legislative, institutional and policy mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the adoption of relevant legislation, and improvements to prison conditions. Turkmenistan made recommendations.

99. Uganda highlighted achievements, including the provision of free health care and primary education for all, a social safety net system for vulnerable groups and progress made towards the MDGs. Uganda made recommendations.
100. United Arab Emirates welcomed progress made towards the MDGs and efforts to ensure social equality and guarantee the rights of all citizens, including social and economic rights. It made a recommendation. It made a recommendation.
101. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the adoption of relevant legislation and calls by the National Commission for supporting women through economic empowerment. It noted concerns about early marriage and violence against women. It echoed calls for Bhutan to develop media self-regulatory mechanisms and adopt freedom of information legislation. It made recommendations.
102. The United States of America commended strides made by Bhutan in its democratization agenda. It was disappointed at the failure to allow the return of ethnic Nepali-Bhutanese refugees from camps in Nepal. It was concerned that laws and practices restricted religious freedom and that the Criminal Code criminalized consensual sexual acts between same-sex adults. It made recommendations.
103. Uruguay commended institutional and legislative changes and efforts to strengthen the judiciary and democracy. It encouraged Bhutan to invite special procedures to visit the country. Uruguay made recommendations.
104. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed institutional and legislative measures to improve the management of public services, with the involvement of all stakeholders, and initiatives to reduce poverty and provide free health care services. It made recommendations.
105. Viet Nam congratulated Bhutan on its efforts to uphold the rule of law, strengthen democracy and ensure the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by its people. It made recommendations.
106. Yemen noted that, despite numerous challenges, Bhutan had enacted legislation to promote and protect human rights and strengthen the judiciary, and that it had built capacity and raised awareness of human rights. Yemen made a recommendation.
107. Zambia commended the enactment of key human rights legislation and efforts to provide free health care and education and protect marginalized people. It encouraged continued efforts to promote and protect human rights. Zambia made recommendations.
108. Afghanistan appreciated Bhutan's steps taken to promote economic and social rights. It recognized the important role of the National Commission for Women and Children in promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and the disadvantaged and the increasing number and role of civil society organizations. Afghanistan made recommendations.
109. Algeria welcomed the adoption of domestic violence, child protection and anti-corruption legislation and the creation of commissions responsible for human rights, women's issues, children's issues and gender equality. Algeria made recommendations.
110. Argentina encouraged Bhutan to ratify the CRPD and to accede to the remaining international instruments to which it was not party. It recognized Bhutan's concern for and commitment to women's rights. Argentina made recommendations.
111. Armenia encouraged ratification of the CRPD and other international conventions, particularly the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It was concerned about the number of young people who had never attended school. Armenia made recommendations.

112. Australia commended the successful 2013 elections, achievements towards the MDGs, the commitment to improving living standards and legal reform addressing human rights. It remained concerned about Nepali-Bhutanese refugees. Australia made recommendations.

113. In response to the questions raised regarding freedom of religion, the delegation explained that the Bhutanese people have the freedom to embrace and practice any religion of their choice, provided it is a choice made out of free will. The delegation referred to the Article 7(4) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to practice any religion provided a person is not compelled to belong to another faith by means of coercion or inducement.

114. Regarding questions relating to electoral issues, the delegation explained that the Bhutanese citizens who are not less than 18 years of age can vote. However, as per the Constitution and Election Act of Bhutan (2008) a member of the Royal Family and religious personalities or religious institutions can neither participate in the electoral process nor join a political party as they are elevated to remain above politics and without patronizing any party or candidate in an election. The delegation responded that ECB is an independent entity as stipulated in the Constitution and the Election Act.

115. Regarding the issue of the issue of the people in the refugee camps in eastern Nepal, the delegation explained that the problem is not a straight forward refugee situation but one arising from illegal immigration of economic migrants. The root cause of the problem is in the massive movement of destitute people in our region caused by extreme poverty, environmental degradation and political instability. Even today, Bhutan has over 130,000 non-Bhutanese workers in the country which is more than in the 1990s. Some of them are getting married to local people in order not to leave the country while some others are even demanding citizenship. The governments of Bhutan and Nepal had agreed that there were all kinds of people in the camps, including non-Bhutanese people. The delegation appreciated the third country resettlement by the Core Group of countries.

116. Responding to the questions regarding child rights, the delegation explained that Bhutan is a member of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children and works to address child protection issues, such as child marriage, corporal punishment and harmful traditional practices.

117. In conclusion, the delegation thanked all the member states for their participation. Bhutan valued the recommendations received and stated that it will give serious consideration to them.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

118. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below enjoy the support of Bhutan:

118.1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Chad);

118.2. Continue to review national legislation in order to ensure that it is in line with the State's international human rights obligations (Turkmenistan);

**Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 118.3. **Establish a National Child Welfare Committee, as provided for by the Child Care and Protection Act (South Africa);**
- 118.4. **Establish an effective organization within the Government for implementing the child protection programme as an initial step (Turkey 1);**
- 118.5. **Continue providing assistance to the National Commission for Women and Children through capacity building and providing additional human resource and technical expertise (Afghanistan);**
- 118.6. **Further its endeavours with regard to the smooth and productive activity of the Women and Child Protection Division within the country (Azerbaijan);**
- 118.7. **Step up efforts on monitoring and evaluation of the activities related to women's empowerment and child protection through development of appropriate monitoring system (Belarus);**
- 118.8. **Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation efforts of women's empowerment and child protection through development of appropriate monitoring mechanism (Ethiopia);**
- 118.9. **Continue developing the institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights (Jordan);**
- 118.10. **Pursue its commitment to develop human resources and to strengthen national social and political institutions in order to enhance its capacity to fulfil its international human rights obligations (Timor-Leste);**
- 118.11. **Strengthen its national efforts in promoting human rights education and training (Egypt);**
- 118.12. **Continue to seek assistance from the United Nations system and the international community in order to promote human rights awareness throughout the country (Timor-Leste);**
- 118.13. **Continue its cooperation with the UN and other International Organizations to overcome the remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 118.14. **Request to the international community the necessary help and technical assistance to meet its obligations under international Conventions and Treaties (Morocco);**
- 118.15. **Continue with its efforts to implement its international human rights obligations (Pakistan);**
- 118.16. **Call for technical assistance for capacity building to fulfil international treaty reporting obligations (Uganda);**
- 118.17. **Continue its policies in improving women rights (Jordan);**
- 118.18. **Ensure the protection and advancement of women's rights, especially in rural areas, and, in particular, promoting wider participation of women in politics and decision-making on national and local levels and strengthening combating violence against women and children (Czech Republic);**
- 118.19. **Pay further attention to the issue of domestic violence, gender gap in tertiary education and women's participation in politics (Kyrgyzstan);**

- 118.20. Formulate awareness raising activities in the efforts to prevent the practice of child marriage and to consider improving the availability of antenatal and postnatal services to women (Slovenia);
- 118.21. Continue taking the necessary measures to promote the rights of the child and women (Nicaragua);
- 118.22. Take further measures to address violence against women and shortcomings concerning the enjoyment of rights by women and girls (Portugal);
- 118.23. Continue its efforts to raise awareness in rural communities about marriage laws and the dangers of child, early and forced marriage (Canada);
- 118.24. Continue to provide all necessary needs of vulnerable children, and especially children from poor socio-economic backgrounds (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 118.25. Continue the efforts in provision of social care for children at risk, especially those who belong to socio-economically poor backgrounds (Yemen);
- 118.26. Continue the efforts to promote children's rights and the right to education (Saudi Arabia);
- 118.27. Apply the law of 2011 in relation to the protection of children (Madagascar);
- 118.28. Take measures to effectively implement the Plan of Action for the Protection of Children (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 118.29. Expedite the preparation and adoption of norms and regulations to implement the provisions of the Child Adoption Act and the 2011 Act on Child Care and Protection (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 118.30. Continue with the measures to improve the conditions of access to education for all without discrimination and to health services (Algeria);
- 118.31. Continue to give priority attention to the protection of women and children from domestic violence, including by implementing and closely monitoring the impact of the Domestic Violence Prevention Bill (Germany);
- 118.32. Adopt measures to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (France);
- 118.33. Strengthen the measures to combat gender-based violence, particularly by emphasizing awareness raising in education and supporting programmes for the economic empowerment of women, especially in rural areas (Spain);
- 118.34. Continue to enhance its engagement with its regional and international partners to facilitate building of capacities in countering domestic and gender-based violence and human trafficking, especially of women and children (Philippines);
- 118.35. Continue efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including in the framework of training of professionals and increasing the level of awareness (Belarus);
- 118.36. Increase its efforts to prevent unacceptable forms of child labour (Italy);

- 118.37. Carry on the measures to ensure the effective and impartial enforcement of the laws and to end impunity in cases of domestic violence (Argentina);
- 118.38. Continue to improve the rule of law and undertake further measures to enhance the capacity of its law enforcement agencies (Singapore);
- 118.39. Strengthen the rule of law and good governance, including capacity building for the law enforcement system and national institutions on human rights (Viet Nam);
- 118.40. Take steps to expedite public access to information through the Right to Information Bill (India);
- 118.41. Facilitate the growth and development of the civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country (Afghanistan);
- 118.42. Pursue efforts towards a solid democratic culture, particularly the participation of women in political life and in senior civil service posts (Switzerland);
- 118.43. Continue developing a longstanding democratic culture including by increasing the participation of women in decision making and intensifying efforts to strengthen accountability (State of Palestine);
- 118.44. Take further steps in promoting political participation of women (Kazakhstan);
- 118.45. Continue its advocacy campaign to encourage greater women's participation in the political process at the national and local levels (Indonesia);
- 118.46. Take measures to increase the political participation of women (India);
- 118.47. Encourage greater participation of women in the political process (Malaysia);
- 118.48. Develop gender policies that allow a wider participation of women in politics (Paraguay);
- 118.49. Undertake campaigns to encourage greater women's participation in politics (Cambodia);
- 118.50. Review and address gaps in education and training policies and outline strategies to ensure employment growth, improve working conditions and provide equal opportunities (State of Palestine);
- 118.51. Develop a comprehensive national policy and strategic plans to create jobs and provide equal opportunities (Bahrain);
- 118.52. Continue efforts in the initiatives aimed at aimed at fostering economic growth, and continue efforts to enhance employment opportunities (Oman);
- 118.53. Intensify efforts to implement the National Employment Policy in creating more employment opportunities for the youth population (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 118.54. Continue to take effective measures in favour of youth employment (China);

- 118.55. Continue to implement youth unemployment programmes in order to produce a skilled work force to meet the requirements of the labour market and promote youth entrepreneurship (Brunei Darussalam);
- 118.56. Attach more attention to job creation, especially addressing youth unemployment (Turkey);
- 118.57. Remunerate the internship programmes and accompany them with technical education training processes with shared programs with the country's economic and industrial sector (Mexico);
- 118.58. Continue the implementation of a more concrete system of social protection, through the initiatives listed in the national report and call on the international community to support those national efforts (Cuba);
- 118.59. Continue the programmes related to poverty reduction and continue the efforts to create a stronger system of social protection (Kuwait);
- 118.60. Further develop its sound social policies in order to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly in the most needed areas (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 118.61. Continue to develop its human resources for further harmonizing and mainstreaming international obligations into domestic legislation and practices, with more focus on employment, education, health care, food security and social welfare, especially in rural and remote areas (Viet Nam);
- 118.62. Continue intensifying its efforts in poverty eradication and economic development with a view to eventually graduate from the LDC category by 2020 (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 118.63. Continue its efforts to further reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas (Cambodia);
- 118.64. Make more efforts to reduce poverty leading to balanced and inclusive growth (China);
- 118.65. Continue to implement public policies to combat poverty (Paraguay);
- 118.66. Intensify the progress made to eliminate poverty by identifying the critical bottle necks in the society (Eritrea);
- 118.67. Continue its measures on poverty reduction, including reduction of multi-dimensional poverty (Azerbaijan);
- 118.68. Take concrete measures to reduce Multi-Dimensional Poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 118.69. Continue addressing the challenges in reducing Multi-Dimensional Poverty (Myanmar);
- 118.70. Continue to mobilize internal resources and capacity while strengthening cooperation with partners and UN agencies to address poverty challenges (Eritrea);
- 118.71. Promote and protect the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 118.72. Step up its efforts to further reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas (Indonesia);

- 118.73. **Allocate sufficient resources for potable water projects especially in rural and marginalized areas (Mexico);**
- 118.74. **Continue the process of strengthening free health care and free education in remote areas as well as strengthening the “kudu” welfare system for the benefit of vulnerable populations (United Arab Emirates);**
- 118.75. **Continue to provide free health services, fully implementing the consolidated National Health Policy, which was launched in July 2011 (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**
- 118.76. **Further consolidate its successful health programmes that provide medical care that is universal, free and of quality for all Bhutanese (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**
- 118.77. **Continue its efforts to improve the quality of health services for mothers and children including the education of pregnant women and mothers with a view to decreasing maternal and neonatal mortality rate and to seek the assistance of the international community with a view to providing better health services to its people (Mauritius);**
- 118.78. **Adopt a comprehensive approach to include providing a healthy environment, safe water and sanitation and proper childcare, encouraging exclusive breastfeeding and improving the education and the health of mothers, in order to reduce the mortality rate of children under five (Ireland);**
- 118.79. **Share its experiences in provision of free education to all children (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**
- 118.80. **Continue the ongoing efforts of promoting inclusive education (Eritrea);**
- 118.81. **Further develop the quality education policies in the country, paying special attention to providing school services to children in remote and difficult locations (Kazakhstan);**
- 118.82. **Strengthen the Government’s efforts to eliminate illiteracy, particularly in remote and difficult locations (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 118.83. **Continue to improve its education system and ensure equitable access to quality education for its people (Singapore);**
- 118.84. **Continue taking measures to further promote and guarantee the right to education in the country, and particularly to increase the school attendance among young people (Armenia);**
- 118.85. **Take further measures to address the decline of female enrolment in schools, in order to ensure that young women complete their secondary education (Portugal);**
- 118.86. **Continue programmes aimed at improving the level of education with financial support, especially for girls belonging to poor families (Bahrain);**
- 118.87. **Further address the gender disparity in enrolment rates at the tertiary level (Myanmar);**
- 118.88. **Make use of the educational process to share the culture of human rights and raise awareness of those rights (Saudi Arabia);**
- 118.89. **Continue its efforts in enhancing the access to quality education for all its young citizens, especially those with special needs (Brunei Darussalam);**

- 118.90. Work closely with the international community towards the priority goal of education for all, especially children with disabilities (Maldives);
- 118.91. Continue implementing the Non-Formal Education programme for adults including persons with disabilities (South Sudan);
- 118.92. Further develop the measures permitting the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the economic, political, social and cultural life, from a human rights-based approach (Spain);
- 118.93. Intensify efforts to operationalize the concept of Gross National Happiness and the tools used to monitor its implementation in the development process (Sudan);
- 118.94. Continue to strengthen measures to achieve progress in the areas identified in its national development plan, through appropriate means (Sri Lanka);
- 118.95. Request development assistance to achieve the MDGs goals (Ethiopia);
- 118.96. Continue its fight against poverty and the negative impacts of climate change with the support from international community (Bangladesh);
- 118.97. Continue to avail technical assistance and international cooperation in its efforts on disaster management and preparedness, as well as climate change mitigation (Maldives);
- 118.98. Develop and submit proposals for capacity development assistance in disaster management. Such a proposal may include as an example, strengthening the knowledge of relevant national stakeholders on the impact of climate change and of sound disaster management from a human rights perspective (Solomon Islands);
- 118.99. Continue to strengthen its efforts in environmental conservation, which contributes towards the global efforts at safeguarding the common heritage of humankind (Sri Lanka);
- 118.100. Continue to strengthen its efforts for environmental conservation, which contributes significantly to global efforts to safeguard the common heritage of mankind (Pakistan);
- 118.101. Request for technical assistance and cooperation as deemed appropriate, from the international community including relevant UN and other specialized agencies with a view to ensuring the promotion and protection of the full spectrum of human rights of its people (Mongolia);
- 118.102. Call for technical assistance for gender development, women's empowerment, child protection, prevention of trafficking in persons and disaster management (Uganda);
- 118.103. Continue its efforts in the strengthening of its anti-corruption legislation and institutional framework (Azerbaijan).
119. Bhutan considers that recommendation 118.1 above is already implemented.
120. The following recommendations will be examined by Bhutan which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 27th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014:

120.1. Continue extending its international commitments and consider ratification of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia 1a); Continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially ICCPR, (France); Take steps to ratify the core human rights conventions, in particular, the ICCPR, (Sierra Leone); Ratify ICCPR, (Austria); Accede to the international human rights instruments, in particular the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Peru); Ratify all core international human rights treaties, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (Germany); Ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (Madagascar); Ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (Algeria); Ratify the other core human rights treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) without delay (Ghana); Ratify ICCPR (Tunisia); Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Botswana); Ratify ICCPR (Gabon); Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Protocols (Uruguay);

120.2. Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Egypt); Consider ratifying and implementing international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (Zambia); Continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially ICESCR, (France) Take steps to ratify the core human rights conventions, in particular, the ICESCR, (Sierra Leone); Ratify ICESCR (Austria); accede to the international human rights instruments, in particular the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Peru); Ratify all core international human rights treaties, most notably the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Germany); Ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (Madagascar); Ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (Algeria); Ratify ICESCR, (Tunisia); Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol; (Portugal); Accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay); Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol (Spain);

120.3. Continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially CERD (France); Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, signed in 1973, (Peru); Ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Madagascar); Ratify CERD (Tunisia); Accede to ICERD (Gabon); Ratify ICERD, (Chad);

120.4. Continue extending its international commitments and consider ratification of Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, (Latvia); Take steps to ratify the core human rights conventions, in particular, and the CAT (Sierra Leone); Ratify all core international human rights treaties, most notably the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany); Ratify or accede to the main instruments on human

rights, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, (Madagascar); Ratify CAT (Tunisia); Ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended (Denmark); Accede to the Convention against Torture (Uruguay);

120.5. Ratify ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT (Switzerland); Ratify the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention Against Torture (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

120.6. Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Egypt); Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines); Ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria); Ratify the other core human rights treaties including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) without delay (Ghana);

120.7. Consider ratifying CRPD at the earliest opportunity (Thailand); Continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially CRPD, signed by Bhutan in 2010, (France); Ratify CRPD (Austria); Ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Algeria); Ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Spain);

120.8. Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Zambia); Continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially the International Convention on Enforced Disappearances (France); Accede to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);

120.9. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);

120.10. Consider ratifying the main international human rights instruments not ratified, including the Rome Statute, (Paraguay); Continue extending its international commitments and consider ratification of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia); Take into consideration the possibility to accede to the major international human rights treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Italy); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);, Ratify the Rome Statute (Tunisia); Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Botswana); Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Australia); Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC and investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Netherlands);

- 120.11. Consider becoming a member of ILO and ratifying the core ILO conventions (Austria); Consider acceding to ILO Convention 189 (Philippines); Ratify ILO Conventions 182 on the worst forms of child labour and 138 on minimum age (Mexico);
- 120.12. Step up efforts to accede to the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (Philippines);
- 120.13. Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 120.14. Accede to the 1951 Convention of the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and the 1961 Convention of the Reduction of Statelessness (Canada);
- 120.15. Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the Child (Portugal);
- 120.16. Continue efforts in acceding to the international human rights treaties (Kazakhstan);
- 120.17. Establish a relationship of constant cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms (Paraguay);
- 120.18. Improve cooperation with the UN treaty bodies, including by incorporating and implementing international human rights law standards (Montenegro);
- 120.19. Step up cooperation with human rights bodies and consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, so as to enhance technical assistance and contribute to the overall improvements of standard setting in the country (Serbia);
- 120.20. Consider further cooperation with the international human rights monitoring mechanisms including treaty bodies and Special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Turkmenistan);
- 120.21. Collaborate with Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures mandate holders (Chad);
- 120.22. Continue to establish its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and consider extending a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Solomon Islands);
- 120.23. Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures (Slovenia);
- 120.24. Extend an open and standing invitation to the Special Procedures to visit its country (Peru); Extend a standing invitation to all UN Human Rights Council special procedures (Montenegro);
- 120.25. Strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandates holders (Latvia);
- 120.26. Accept requests for visits by UN Special Procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (France);
- 120.27. Invite without delay, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit the country and issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Czech Republic);

- 120.28. **Accept the request made by the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit Bhutan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 120.29. **Accept the visit request of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council (Ireland);**
- 120.30. **Undertake further actions in order to prevent child marriages (Italy);**
- 120.31. **Amend relevant legislation in order to ensure civil registration for all children, including fatherless children (Austria);**
- 120.32. **Guarantee the fundamental rights of all the country's inhabitants without discrimination and reform the Citizenship Act accordingly (Switzerland);**
- 120.33. **Harmonise the procedure to transmit Bhutanese nationality in order to allow women to transmit Bhutanese nationality to their children on the same terms as men (France);**
- 120.34. **Continue taking measures for the protection of the rights of senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities and minorities while giving utmost priority to the provision of social security in all regions of the country (Nepal);**
- 120.35. **Continue working to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups in the social programmes and projects of the Government (Nicaragua);**
- 120.36. **Consider prohibition of the use of corporal punishment of children in all settings (Zambia);**
- 120.37. **Strengthen gender awareness through the incorporation of content with a human rights approach in the formal and informal education in order to eradicate violence against women (Costa Rica);**
- 120.38. **Take measures, in law and in practice, to end all forms of child labour in accordance with the highest international standards (Costa Rica);**
- 120.39. **Improve equal access to the legal aid system, in particular for poor and marginalized groups (Austria);**
- 120.40. **Decriminalize sexual acts between consenting same-sex adults (United States of America, France);**
- 120.41. **Proceed to the abolition of existing legislation criminalizing relations between persons of the same sex (Spain);**
- 120.42. **Consider amending legislation criminalizing relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);**
- 120.43. **Continue to provide, in accordance with its obligations under International Human Rights Law, the widest possible protection and support for the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**
- 120.44. **Review its laws and practices relating to religious groups to ensure that all persons, religious denominations and institutions feel free to associate and practice their religious beliefs (Sierra Leone);**
- 120.45. **Protect religious freedom by allowing individuals to practice their religion freely, and provide religious organizations equal opportunity to obtain legal status (United States of America);**

- 120.46. Further enhance the environment for the development of civil society organizations, including in the areas of legal awareness raising, advocacy and human rights monitoring (Austria);
- 120.47. Continue efforts to make its democratization process more inclusive and development oriented (Nepal);
- 120.48. Enact amendments to the Electoral Code and ensure a broader participation of all citizens in the electoral process and equal enjoyment of the right to vote and to stand for elections (Czech Republic);
- 120.49. Establish a comprehensive and institutionalized national social security policy (South Africa);
- 120.50. Intensify efforts to make primary education compulsory, free of all costs and accessible to all children, with the implementation of additional measures to ensure the right to education for children from ethnic minorities (Brazil);
- 120.51. Strengthen measures to ensure inclusion of and respect for the rights of all ethnic and religious communities (Canada);
- 120.52. Give favourable consideration to the return from Nepal of those refugees with compelling humanitarian needs (Australia);
- 120.53. Contribute to an acceptable solution for the people living in refugee camps and give particular attention to the elderly and to those that were separated from their families (Germany);
- 120.54. Reinvigorate the dialogue with neighbouring countries in order to allow for a return of Bhutanese refugees still living in camps across the border (Austria); Intensify its efforts to resolve the issues relating to displaced persons, formerly resident in the country and currently living in a neighbouring country, through bilateral discussions (Sierra Leone); Carry on a dialogue with Nepal to find acceptable solutions for the remaining Bhutan refugees of Nepal origin in Nepal refugee camps (Czech Republic);
- 120.55. Continue with her efforts in ensuring promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers especially those already in camps (Zambia);
- 120.56. Allow voluntary repatriation of ethnic Nepali Bhutanese refugees to Bhutan (United States of America);
- 120.57. Resume bilateral negotiations with Nepal and cooperate with UNHCR in order to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees to Bhutan and focus in particular on addressing cases with compelling humanitarian concerns (Netherlands);
- 120.58. Step up efforts, together with Nepal, to find a lasting solution to the situation of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal (France);
- 120.59. Take the necessary measures to allow the Bhutanese refugees who wish to return to Bhutan to do so safely and in conditions that respect their rights (Switzerland);
- 120.60. Step up efforts to ensure that the country's immigration laws and regulations are in line with its international human rights obligations (Thailand).

121. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bhutan was headed by H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Foreign secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA);
 - Ambassador Sonam T. Rabgye, Director-General PPD, MFA;
 - Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Deputy Chief, PPD, MFA;
 - Ms. Metho Dema, Assistant Desk Office, PPD, MFA;
 - Mr. Thinley Namgyel, Director, Gross National Happiness Commission;
 - Ms. Dechen Zam, Chief Planning Officer, Ministry of Education;
 - Mr. Sonam Tashi, Deputy Chief Attorney, Office of the Attorney General;
 - Ms. Phintsho Choeden, Director-General, National Commission for Women and Children;
 - Ms. Dorji Ohm, Executive-Director, Youth Development Fund;
 - H.E. Mr. Daw Penjo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative;
 - Mr. Kinley Wangchuk, Minister Counsellor;
 - Ms. Chening Peldon, Counsellor;
 - Ms. Tashi Peldon, First Secretary;
 - Ms. Pema Tshomo, Second Secretary.
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