



39th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Joint Statement delivered by Ms. Dechen Wangmo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kingdom of Bhutan

On behalf of the two fellows , beneficiary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust
Fund to Support the Participation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small
Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights, General Debate on Item 10
Geneva, 27 September 2018

Mr. President,

I take this opportunity to speak on behalf of the two fellows, beneficiary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund from Afghanistan and my own country Bhutan. We will continue our training program till 23 November 2018 and will be working on a research paper of interest to our respective countries. We also had the opportunity to exchange experiences and undergo a week long induction course with delegates from Gambia, Niger and Tuvalu who are also the beneficiary of the Trust Fund. We appreciate the recognition of gender equality in the representation of delegates which is in line with the gender mainstreaming efforts of the Human Rights Council.

We are fortunate to take part in the training program and attend the 39th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council which has been made possible by the generous contributions of donor countries and friends of LDCs and SIDs to the Voluntary Trust Fund. We request donors to continue with their support to the Trust Fund for continued training program at the UN Human Rights Council as LDCs and SIDs countries are persistently challenged with scarce resources.

During the past three weeks we have learnt a lot about human rights and the critical role the Council plays in the promotion and protection of human rights. We congratulate those states whose UPR reports were presented and adopted during this session. We wish them well in their efforts to strengthen human rights.

On the occasion of the Sixth Anniversary of the Trust Fund and the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we express our immense appreciation and gratitude for supporting our participation in the Human Rights Council and the training program. We would like to assure that the knowledge and experience we have gained through this program will be put to good use in our countries.

Thank you Mr. President.