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Statement by Mr. Sonam Tobgay, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan, under Agenda Item 28: Advancement of Women, Third Committee, 65th Session ofthe UNGA, 13th October 2010

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General for his insightful reports presented under this agenda item. These reports provide an excellent compilation of good practices prevalent in member states that merit consideration and are also worthy of replication.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of UN Women, which we are confident will address the global issues of gender equality and women's empowerment with greater vigor. We congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet upon her appointment as the head of this entity, and assure her of our full support in the discharge of her duties.

Mr. Chairman,

As a state party to CEDAW, Bhutan is fully committed to ensuring the equality of women and men in the enjoyment of the full spectrum of human rights. Our commitment is fully reflected in our national laws and policies most notably in our Constitution, which has two articles that specifically

mainly to ensure that sectors are sensitive to gender issues in the preparation of plans and programs. The newly developed National Plan of Action for Gender guides the mainstreaming of gender through seven priority areas, which include, education and training; health; good governance; economic development and employment; violence against women; prejudices and stereotypes; and ageing, mental health and disabilities. The central government agencies are supported in these efforts by a network of National Gender Focal Points in all sectors including the security

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