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MFA/MD/GA-6/2013/ 1103

26 September 2013

PRESS RELEASE

**BHUTAN PARTICIPATES IN THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL
EVENT ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

1. Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje participated at the General Assembly's Special Event on Millennium Development Goals, 25 September 2013, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The event was convened to discuss the acceleration of the MDGs and to advance the international community's search for a new development agenda in the post 2015 era.
2. Speaking at the Round Table Conference, co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Dy. Prime Minister of Ireland, Lyonpo acknowledged that, while there has been significant progress in achievement of the MDGs at the global level, challenges still remain. He underlined that it is imperative to intensify efforts in achieving the MDGs during this last mile stretch. For Bhutan, despite many challenges, the full realization of the MDGs remains a priority. While Bhutan is on track and have even exceeded some of the targets, such as poverty reduction, some MDGs will still require accelerated push.
3. Lyonpo joined the call for sustainable development and poverty eradication to be placed at the core of the post 2015 development agenda. He emphasized the need for a transformative development agenda that puts people at the center of development and seeks to bring about shared prosperity and happiness to all. He highlighted that any post-2015 development agenda would be incomplete if it does not address the special needs and development challenges of the least developed countries.
4. Lyonpo reiterated Bhutan's commitment to achieving the MDGs by 2015 and its readiness to support the global community's efforts towards the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda.
5. The post 2015 development agenda will set the parameters for international development cooperation and global partnerships after the conclusion of the MDGs in 2015.
6. Lyonpo is presently leading the Royal Government's delegation to the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.



Multilateral Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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