

LAUNCH OF “BHUTAN AT THE UNITED NATIONS”
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 15TH MARCH 2016

REMARKS BY LYONPO DAGO TSHERING

Hon'ble Foreign Minister,
Ms. Christina Carlson, the Resident Coordinator of the UN,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an opportunity for me to greet you all this morning, and to say we appreciate your being able to join us.

This gathering has been organized by the Hon'ble Foreign Minister and I would like to thank him for facilitating this book release at the Foreign Ministry and despite his busy schedule, for so kindly consenting to release these two volumes on Bhutan's participation at the UN.

Allow me also to thank the Literary Sub Committee of the 60th Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee, its Chair Person Aum Sangay Zam, Secretary of Education for sponsoring the publication these two volumes of Bhutan at the United Nations.

It has been now 45 yrs since Bhutan joined the United Nations in 1971 as the 129th member state. These two volumes contain the speeches made by our delegations to the UN and at some other international fora.

It also includes the statements made by members of the Security Council at the time of considering applications of new members, and the statements made by some of our neighbors in support of our admission to the UN.

The speeches in these two volumes reflect the positions taken by our representatives on regional and international issues, disarmament, as well as on the promotion of international cooperation for economic and social advancement.

It includes a list of regional and international organizations of which Bhutan has become a member and a list of regional and UN conventions that Bhutan has signed, acceded and ratified to date.

We compiled these speeches and the instruments so that our researchers, students and future generation may be able to access these documents to learn - when and how Bhutan joined the UN., what we said and did to promote the national interest of Bhutan and on the issues of international peace and cooperation.

Researchers can then consider what more needs to be done by Bhutan and how

we could strengthen our presence at the international fora, even as a small land - locked developing state, despite our limited resources.

On reflection, what has always struck me about the UN is the value of that single vote of equal weight bestowed by the UN Charter upon each and every member state. Whether a vote in support of a resolution, or a vote at an election for a position or membership to a UN body or committee, how much difference that single vote can make to the outcome. Also of import, the impact and influence to collective decision making, that even the shortest of interventions and statements can have.

In mid 70s and 80s, Bhutan at the UN used to be known as a moderate member of the NAM. Observers assessed our position from our voting records and the statements we had made. Being a Buddhist country, perhaps we reflected too much of Naga Arjuna's Middle Path.

Thereafter and in the 21st Century, Bhutan came to be known by our development paradigm of GNH and as the land of happiness. Thanks to the 4th Druk Gyalpo for giving us the development philosophy of GNH.

The Land of Palden Drukpa owes a lot to the 4th DRUK Gyalpo whose vision and tireless efforts brought Bhutan where it is today. Indeed, he is the architect of peace, stability and prosperity of Bhutan.

I believe, that His Majesty has always been convinced that there is no development without peace and there is no peace without development. And today, Bhutan is recognized as one of the most peaceful countries in the world.

We are confident that the Democratic Constitutional Monarchy, now in its 8th year, under the guidance of the Fifth Druk Gyalpo will further deepen the practices of Democracy and further strengthen the well being of the people of Bhutan.

At the same time, Bhutan will continue to make contributions to promote global peace, to live in harmony as good neighbors and promote international cooperation for social and economic development for the happiness of all peoples.

We dedicate these two volumes of Bhutan at the UN to the 60th birth Anniversary of the 4th Druk Gyalpo, to observe the 70 years of founding of the United Nations, and 45 years of Bhutan's membership in the United Nations.

Tashi Delek.