

Talking points of UN Resident Coordinator Christina Carlson

Your Excellency, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji

Members of Parliament

Lyonpo Om Pradhan, former Chair of DHI

Lyonpo Thinley Gyamsto, former RCSC Chair

Lyonpo Dago Tshering, here today as the driving force behind the launch

Aum Sangay Zam, Chairperson of Literary Subcommittee and Secretary of Education

Former and current Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors

Excellencies, Dashos, UN Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Today's occasion is a very apt frontispiece to a year's worth of celebrations commemorating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bhutan joining the United Nations.

The compendium we are here to launch today represents a tremendous contribution to Bhutan's historical record, as well as the United Nation's. It will be a resource which will be used and enjoyed now and for years to come.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has always been at the forefront in supporting the efforts of the UN. And the speeches in this compendium showcase Bhutan's contributions to international affairs. For example, this extract of a speech by Lyonpo Pradhan at the 1980 General Assembly:

“[T]he Government and the people of Bhutan are firmly committed to the ideals and principles of the United Nations Charter.... We seek, therefore, as free people, to live in peace and friendship with all nations and to develop our country in every sector of human endeavor in a manner we ourselves deem fit and proper. At the same time, we will join with other peace-loving nations in an effort to build a world order based on respect of the sovereign equality of all nations, peaceful co-existence, justice and mutually beneficial co-operation.

We will spare no effort in the quest for maintenance of international peace and security, to which all peace-loving nations should be wholly committed.”

In an organization with 193 Member States, people sometimes wonder how any one country can stand out. The late Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was a great proponent of the role of that smaller states could have through the UN, with the organization enabling them to have a global impact. In his words:

“Small states can play large constructive roles and the record of the UN proves that political will and imagination can make more fruitful contributions to peace than military power or economic power.”  
(Summit Meeting of the Security Council, 1992)

These volumes will help today’s young people to know, as well as researchers to measure, the impact of Bhutan’s role in the UN during the past 45 years. They are a gift to future generations in the world, and to the country.

Thank you and tashi delek.