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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan
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PRESS RELEASE

Foreign Secretary Kinga Singye is in New York attending the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for the Decade 2014–2024. The Review is held under the auspices of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5-6 December 2019.

Addressing the General Assembly on 5 December 2019, Foreign Secretary highlighted the challenges faced by LLDCs and spoke of the initiatives underway in Bhutan to accelerate implementation of the VPoA towards realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The High Representatives gathered for the High-level Midterm Review of the VPoA adopted a Political Declaration reaffirming their commitment towards the full, effective and timely implementation of the VPoA. The Political Declaration notes the progress made and challenges encountered by LLDCs in the implementation of the VPoA and identifies specific areas and have called for action for the remaining 5 years. Bhutan together with Austria co-chaired the intergovernmental negotiations to elaborate the Political Declaration for the Midterm Review.

The 32 LLDCs are recognized as being amongst the most vulnerable owing to lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from the world markets and high transit costs. 17 of the 32 LLDCs are also classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Bhutan will be the first LLDC to graduate from LDC status in 2023.

The VPoA is an innovative, holistic and results oriented 10 year programme of action (2014-2024), based on renewed and strengthened partnerships. Its overarching goal is to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries to transform their economies through inclusive and sustainable growth.



New York, 5 December 2019