

LAUNCH OF THE OHRLLS REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE LDCS 2017
3.30 – 4.30 PM, 19TH JULY

REMARKS BY KARMA CHOEDA, CHARGE D' AFFAIRES AD INTERIM, PERMANANT
MISSION OF BHUTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Under Secretary-General and High Representative, Ms. Fekitamoeloa
Chair of LDC, Ambassador Momen,
Excellencies and Colleagues.**

It's indeed a pleasure to welcome you to the Bhutan Mission for the launch of the Report on the State of State of LDCs 2017.

Let me take this opportunity to, firstly, convey on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, our warm congratulations to the High Representative on your assumption of this important position.

We assure you of our full support and are today, happy to Co-host this launch with you and your team.

I wish to also thank the High Representative and her team for their continued efforts in championing the cause of LDCs.

Our appreciation also goes to the Chair of LDCs, Ambassador Momen for your stellar leadership and for the hard work and tireless efforts that you and your team put in towards advancing the interest of the Group of LDCs, particularly in the important intergovernmental negotiations.

Excellencies,

The Report on the State of LDCs is something that we look forward to every year.

It helps us take stock of the development progress that LDCs are making.

Not only does it help to feed into the various analytical reports at the UN, including Secretary-General's report, but also in our national context, it helps us see our own national progress within the larger framework of the global development landscape - to see trends, gaps and challenges and also look at ways to address them.

So for us, this is an extremely important and useful report and for Bhutan, the report comes at a crucial time when we are heading into 12th Five Year Development Plan in 2018, which incidentally coincides with our national parliamentary elections.

This year's Report is particularly important because of its focus on financing the SDGs for LDCs.

With an ambitious development framework in both the SDGs and IPOA, the focus must now shift to implementation and financing is a critical component in that.

And when we talk of financing, there is of course no silver bullet.

Obviously for LDCs, ODA is important, but given the transformative nature of the SDGs, we need to explore all financing streams and mechanisms that are out there.

So, we look forward to reading the report with great interest to see how we are doing, where we need to go and what opportunities exists that we need to seize.

While I have this opportunity, I want to thank the Friends of LDCs, most of whom are also our key bilateral development partners.

It is because of your continued support and assistance that we are able to achieve good developmental progress.

And this is perhaps a good segway to end my remarks and to do that, I want to draw your attention to a painting on the left side of the entrance.

It's painting of a popular art in Bhutan and my personal favorite.

The painting is called "Four Harmonious Friends"

It's a painting of four animals under a tree.

The elephant is at the base, the monkey is on the back of the elephant, followed by the rabbit and then finally the bird.

There is a very important message here, which is very apt for our work here at the UN.

The simple message is here is that - this is an interconnected world, everyone needs each other, big countries, small countries, rich countries and poor countries – all must come together and support each to enjoy the fruit of prosperity.

We hope that you will continue to support the LDCs and that come 2030, one of the indicators of success in the SDGs will be to see how well the LDCs have done.

With these, I end my remarks.

I would now like to invite the Under Secretary General and High Representative to present the Report on the State of LDCs 2017.
