

Statement by Mr. Chenchu Norbu
Secretary, National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan
High Level Segment of UN Climate Change Conference 2017
(COP23, CMP13, CMA1.2)
Bonn, Germany, 16 November 2017

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of COP23 and your leadership here in Bonn. We also extend our appreciation to the City of Bonn and the Federal Republic of Germany for the warm and excellent hospitality.

My delegation associates with the statements by Ecuador for the G77 & China, and by Ethiopia for the Least Developed Countries.

Allow me also, to express solidarity and deepest sympathies with the millions around the world who were affected this year by climate impacts such as record floods, hurricanes and wildfires.

Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform that Bhutan completed the national process of ratifying the Paris Agreement, and submitted the instrument of ratification on 19 September this year. We now look forward to action for implementation.

As a small landlocked LDC with a significant part of our population dependent on subsistence agriculture, we welcome the positive development on Agriculture as a positive way towards addressing climate action in a vulnerable sector.

As a highly vulnerable mountainous country, our actions include: 2nd NAPA project to build capacity for managing climate hazards is nearing completion; the third NAPA project to build resilience in agriculture and communities is now underway; and last week, we launched the

“Bhutan for Life” project, which is our first GCF funded action. We thank all our partners and donors for all their support.

We are now keen to begin work on our long term NAP process and we await the expeditious approval of our NAP readiness proposal by the GCF.

Mr. President,

As a LDC, Bhutan has a development imperative, but at the same time we are committed to remaining carbon neutral by following a low emission development pathway. We have started to elaborate actions in our NDC, and are finalizing several Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS). These plans and actions are being integrated along with the Sustainable Development Goals into our next *Five-Year Development plan*.

However, we note that while support for preparation of such plans and strategies are readily available, the support for implementation of actions is not so easily secured.

Mr. President,

Many LDCs, like Bhutan, are making good progress in sustainable development, and look forward to a *smooth transition* in graduating from LDC status. We therefore call for *smooth transition* measures under the Convention and Paris Agreement in response to UN General Assembly resolution A/67/221. Such measures are needed to minimize disruptions to LDCs in the graduation phase and we look forward to work on this matter in 2018.

Mr. President,

We mark 25 years of the Convention this year –now we need global action over the next 25. We call on all Parties to adopt the collaborative multilateral process that gave us the Paris Agreement, and ensure timely completion of the “*Paris Agreement Work Program*”. We need more ambitious mitigation action and enhanced support for implementation. In this regard, transparency of actions and support are of most importance to achieve the goal of limiting temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees, and minimizing adverse impacts on the most vulnerable.

Vinaka Vinaka Vaka Le Vu!

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