

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Yeshey Penjor**

Hon'ble Minister,

Ministry of Agriculture and Forest,

Royal Government of Bhutan

at the High Level Segment of COP26/CMP16/CMA3 to UNFCCC, Glasgow, the  
UK

November 9, 2019

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as the President of COP26. On behalf of the Bhutanese delegation, I also would like to thank the United Kingdom and people of Scotland for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the conference. With great pleasure, I have the privilege to acknowledge the kindness, friendliness nature of the security force, volunteers and every individual citizen of Glasgow city. Everywhere we went, people were so friendly and helpful.

From COP26, Bhutan as the Chair of the LDCs Group and as a highly vulnerable country, I would like to appeal to the COP26 Presidency and

the negotiating partners to consider; scaling up finance for Adaptation, Loss and damages, technology transfer and capacity building to enable us recover from the impacts of severe impacts of climate induced disasters. LDCs do not contribute to GHG emissions but bear the brunt of the climate change impacts. Water resources, agriculture and infrastructure for life, food security and livelihood are at risk in the fragile mountain ecosystems of countries like Bhutan. We are imposed on, with loss and damages frequently induced by climate disasters. As such, Adaptation is a priority for us. Adaptation therefore must be supported with grants in finance. We would like our partners to live upto the US\$100 billion climate finance commitment and Adaptation must receive equal share in climate financing.

Mr. President!

Bhutan under the policy guidance of our Environmental Champion Monarchs have demonstrated enough leadership in environmental conservation and our low emission development policy for climate change and sustainable development goals are committed. Just to set the tone with an example, we are committed to go e-mobility in our transport sector and energy efficient housing to transform from fossil fuels run transport and domestic cooking and heating. Initiating electric train transport, increasing electric vehicles in public and private

transport across the country is an immediate target in our country. We would like to invite investors; governments, multinational donors, INGOs, and the private sector to support such green initiatives in our country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit everyone around the globe. But poorer nations already impacted by the climate crisis are the worst hit. We would like to request leaders to consider post pandemic economic support rather than attempting to recover to pre-pandemic status.

Mr. President!

Let me echo other Hindu Kush Himalayas initiatives and three messages of the region. The water tower of the world is the worst hit and with the slightest temperature rise can have detrimental effects on its glaciers and downstream, as confirmed by the latest IPCC report. We need regional cooperation and global support in saving the Himalayas and the livelihoods of 240 million people living within these mountain ecosystems.

Mr. President!

While Bhutan acknowledges and welcomes the COP26 Presidency's "*climate finance delivery plan: meeting the US\$ 100 billion goal*", and the contributions committed by partners in LDCF replenishment, we

would like to reiterate that climate finance must be predictable, easily accessible and sustainable based on the priorities and needs of the vulnerable countries. Countries that are committed and have provided leadership prominence must be recognized with funding assurances.

As we approach the final week of the COP26, lots need to be done to conclude remaining work for implementing the Paris Agreement. We must speed up to deliver ambitious, concrete and enhanced climate action and support. For Bhutan, let me once again reiterate that COP26 must deliver concrete decisions on enhanced ambition, adaptation, loss and damage, robust rule for implementation of market and non-market mechanism that ensures environmental integrity and enhanced financial support for climate action.

Mr. President!

Bhutan remains committed to the principles and objectives of the Convention and Paris Agreement and calls on all Parties to be flexible, open and constructive to deliver a strong climate action and support. Our actions today will go a long way towards securing a green and sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!