

**69th SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC**

25 April to 1 May 2013, Bangkok

SENIOR OFFICIALS SEGMENT

**AGENDA ITEM 2: SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST DEVELOPED AND LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES: (b) Biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action**

STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF BHUTAN

Excellency,

1. At a time when the international community has increasingly focused its gaze on the 2015 horizon, UNESCAP and OHRLLS convening of the Meeting on Post 2015 Development Agenda for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs yesterday was most timely. The complex architecture of international mechanisms seeking to shape the development of the Post-2015 Agenda and related matters is dense and multidimensional. For delegations of small states and LDCs, an additional challenge is finding the appropriate space to engage and offer our contributions to the work of some of these mechanisms. We appreciate that this important initiative responds to this concern.
2. At the national level, we concluded earlier this month our national consultations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda with the support of the UNCT. We also conducted in March, in collaboration with OHRLLS, a national Workshop on Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. We were privileged to have with us on that occasion, the High Representative and his team. In Bhutan, we have made significant progress within the framework of Gross National Happiness. The adoption of UN res 65/309 in July 2011 entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development" encouraged us to work further towards the articulation a New Development Paradigm, which we feel, offers a response to the call for a transformative Post 2015 Development Agenda, as well as "a new social contract for sustainable development".
3. These activities have not only strengthened Bhutan's implementation of the international commitments including the IPOA, which Bhutan is convinced, must remain one of the building blocks of the Post 2015 era, and the MDGs, but also enriched our national reflection and focus on identification of priorities for the Post 2015 Development Agenda.
4. While specific views of my Govt were shared at the meeting yesterday, allow me to reaffirm that Bhutan feels that the end result of all the Post 2015 and related mechanisms

must be, "a single post-2015 development agenda." We look forward to the eventual convergence between the SDG and Post 2015 processes within coming months and agree that any final agreement must be the result of an inclusive, state driven negotiated outcome. This single coherent, holistic development agenda should reflect shared priorities. It should be inspired by a higher vision, perhaps one that will set the stage for that transformative agenda reminds us of the overriding and ultimate objective of all our efforts.

5. On a final note, my delegation would like to express appreciation to the delegation of Nepal, initiating the resolution on the Bangkok Declaration, which we support fully and attach great importance to.
6. My delegation would like to also welcome and congratulate the UNESCAP and OHRLLS for the close collaboration between your offices. We recognize that the resulting synergy can only serve and strengthen the interests of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS of the region by providing the missing link between the national, regional, and international levels.
7. Bhutan looks forward to continue to work closely with all LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs on ensuring our views and priorities are reflected in the mechanisms of Post 2015 Development Agenda, including at the GA's OWG, on which Bhutan is a member along with Thailand and Vietnam in Troika format.

Thankyou.