

# BHUTAN

Honourable Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this August Gathering on "The Convention after 10 years": accomplishments and future challenges. While we recognize the tremendous accomplishments of the Convention, we believe this is an opportunity to assess our challenges. As a small least developed country, we are overwhelmed with the adverse impacts of climate change. My country through our initial national inventory shows that Bhutan sequestered 3,321 kilotonnes of carbon in 1994. We are still committed to ensuring the continuation of our policies and measures to remain a net sequester of greenhouse gases. We now know that climate change will have a devastating impact on our fragile mountain ecosystem, unusual weather patterns will affect 79% of our population who are subsistence farmers and the threat of glacial lake outburst floods is ever present and there will be irreversible threats to our water resources, human health, food production and natural ecosystems.

A key challenge for the Convention we believe is to support the least developed countries. This is an area of potential accomplishments. The development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action for least developed countries, and the establishment of the least developed countries fund and least developed countries expert group were important steps undertaken by Parties to help support the most vulnerable amongst us. We recognize the overwhelming good will of parties in helping our communities adapt to the adverse impacts of climate; but we hope this goodwill can be translated into concrete support for our most urgent and immediate adaptation needs; and the operationalization of the least developed countries fund in a manner that will be accessible to our countries. Political will and commitment from all parties is the only way forward for our convention. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

BHUTAN

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and we also recognize the importance of climate solutions compatible with poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

As a small least developed country, we are overwhelmed with the adverse impacts of climate change. Our first greenhouse gas inventory shows that Bhutan is a net sequester of greenhouse gases. My Government still remains committed to ensuring continuation of such policies and measures.

Bhutan is highly vulnerable to climate change as it poses a significant threat to our economic livelihood and security. We know that climate change will have a devastating impact on our fragile mountain ecosystem with unusual weather patterns affecting 79% of our population primarily subsistence farmers. Retreating of the glaciers and the glacial lake outburst floods is also an eminent threat in our country as expressed by many other countries. And there will be irreversible threats to our water resources, human health, food production and natural ecosystems.

Article 4.9 of the Convention takes into account the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries. The development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action, establishment of the least developed countries fund and expert group were important steps undertaken by Parties to help support the most vulnerable amongst us. As stated by Honourable Ministers of Senegal and Bangladesh, we urge Parties to work with us in addressing our most urgent and immediate adaptation needs to the adverse impacts of climate change. We support the statement made by the minister of Kiribati on the importance of operationalization of the least developed countries fund that will enable accessibility for our countries.

Bhutan remains committed to the convention and the Kyoto Protocol and we believe that political will and commitment from all parties is the only way forward for demonstrable progress under our convention. Mitigation and adaptation must be undertaken simultaneously. Thank you Mr. Chairman.