

**WORKSHOP ON  
FOSTERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LDCs  
Thimphu, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Hon'ble Lyonpo,  
Mr. Under Secretary General,  
Distinguished Guests and Participants,

1. Allow me to start by wishing everyone a very good morning, and a warm welcome.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pleased to host in partnership with the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed, Land Locked and Small Island Developing States, today's Workshop on Fostering the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs.
3. We are privileged to have with us, the High Representative himself, Ambassador Gyan Acharya, and Director of OHRLLS, Ambassador Heidi Schroderus-Fox. The High Representative's Office was established in 2002 with the adoption of UN resolution GA56/227. Bhutan was proud to support and be part of this process.
4. Today's workshop focuses on Bhutan's progress towards achieving the priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which succeeded the erstwhile Brussels Programme of Action. Adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul in March 2011, the IPOA charts out the international community's vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs for the decade 2011-2020. The overarching goal of the IPOA is to overcome the structural challenges faced by LDCs in order to eradicate poverty and achieve internationally agreed development goals, with a special focus on MDGs. I might mention here, that in his former capacity as Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN in NY, Ambassador Acharya, as Chairman of the LDC Group, played a significant role in the successful negotiation of this document.
5. Without further delay, may I respectfully invite the Hon'ble Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Economic Affairs to kindly deliver the Opening Statement.

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