

**Closing Remarks by Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji  
(Chair of the RTM) during the 15<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting (RTM): *An update  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan*, on 2 September 2021 at Gyalyong Tshogkhang.**

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Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. As we come to the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting, I, on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, would like to thank all our Development Partners, attending both virtually and in-person for actively participating and contributing to the meeting. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have chaired the meeting and interacted with the development partners and other participants today.
2. Your presence and participation has immensely contributed to the successful conduct of this RTM. The 15th RTM, convened at a time when our socio-economic development has been confronted by the challenges posed by the pandemic, has received the solidarity and support of our development partners.
3. I am certain that this platform has provided us an opportunity to share and exchange our experiences and ideas and more importantly for the Royal Government to acknowledge the support we have received from our development partners, and update our partners of the progress of the 12th Five Year Plan and the way forward for Bhutan. Once again, we are thankful for the support Bhutan has received from the international community.
4. Let me echo just a few key messages of the RTM:
  - a. Over the course of the one-day deliberations, I heard so clearly that we are on the right path of development progress despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. This progress will greatly contribute in aligning our development progress for our LDC graduation path, which are all due to the continued support and assistance extended by our Development Partners.
  - b. I am also happy to share about the commitments being made by our development partners towards Bhutan's development activities, which are definitely the assurances not only for our better recovery but resilient and sustainable graduation.

- c. While Bhutan is set to graduate from the LDC category in 2023, challenges posed by the pandemic and other major issues such as climate change and associated vulnerabilities would need to be tackled in a concerted manner.
- d. We look forward to receiving continued support as we strive to build back better and graduate sustainably. We remain committed to reinforce and strengthen our developmental plans and in the areas of Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Water Security, Digitization and Artificial Intelligence.
- e. Bhutan is highly grateful for the support received from the international community and our development partners in our fight against COVID-19. We look forward to receiving continued support and cooperation.

Excellencies,

- 5. I would like to once again, thank all of you, for your time and invaluable contributions for the successful conduct of the 15th RTM.
- 6. I would also like to thank the organizers; GNHC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance for organizing the 15<sup>th</sup> RTM in a befitting manner at a time when COVID-19 pandemic has tightened the situation. I also thank the Officials from the Royal Government for their attendance and our Embassies and Missions for attending the RTM virtually this time and providing support in convening this RTM.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

The 15th RTM now comes to an end. May I now request the MC to make the announcements for the rest of the evening's programme.

Thank you all.