



Statement by  
His Excellency Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Kingdom of Bhutan at the  
Second South Summit  
Doha, Qatar  
12-16 June 2005

---

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

My delegation is deeply grateful to the Government and people of Qatar for the gracious hospitality accorded to us. We would like to pay tribute to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, the Government and the people of Qatar for the exemplary leadership provided to our Group of 77 and China over the last year.

We are also inspired by the dynamism and efficacy with which Jamaica, as the current Chair, has been conducting the affairs of our Group. The work ahead of us this year is particularly significant as we take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcome of the Millennium Summit. We are confident that under the leadership of His Excellency the Right Honourable P. J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica, our Group will continue to work in solidarity and in cooperation with other stakeholders towards achieving a successful outcome to the High-level Review Summit this year and ensuring that the development agenda is given the highest priority in the reform process of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Five years ago, at the threshold of a new millennium, we held the First South Summit in an atmosphere of renewed hope and promise for the international development agenda. Conscious of the glaring disparities within and among nations and taking cognizance of their social, economic, and

political implications to international peace and development in an increasingly interdependent world, countries of the North and South were stimulated to seriously look at the issue of peace, security and development in a global and multi-dimensional context. The Millennium Summit in conjunction with the international conferences held in Johannesburg, Monterrey and Brussels as well as the promises of the Doha Development Round of WTO resuscitated the flagging spirit of international development cooperation.

We are however concerned that the sense of optimism generated five years ago is now gradually being replaced with a cynicism that we are all too familiar with. This cynicism is not entirely unfounded as the reality of the state of globalization, despite the promises of several international conferences held in recent years, has not been encouraging. Credible reports indicate that the laudable intentions of the international community, primarily manifested in the MDGs, will not be achieved in many countries and that the state of poverty in others is in fact expected to deteriorate.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that the social, economic, political, and environmental challenges that we face as a global community are indeed formidable. They are however, surely not insurmountable. In an increasingly interdependent world, cooperation among all States to overcome these challenges is no longer an option but vital if we are to bring about and sustain international peace, security, and development. There is no ambiguity as to what needs to be done. The international community has deliberated, formulated plans of actions and made the necessary commitments over and over again. What has been sorely lacking is the resolve to implement them. And here, if we cannot find the strength to act upon our conscience, we must at least see the wisdom of doing

so in enlightened self-interest, for surely peace and security cannot be sustained when millions remain marginalized and are denied the benefits of development and the right to live in dignity.

Mr. Chairman,

With the 2005 High-level Review Summit only few months away, the Second South Summit comes at an opportune time. We must use this opportunity to consolidate our efforts towards an effective strategy that would not only ensure that the development agenda is given the highest priority during the Review Summit but more importantly that its outcome leads to the implementation of all commitments made during the major international conferences held since 2000. In this regard, my delegation hopes that special challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked-developing Countries, and the Small Island Developing States will be given the attention and priority they deserve. In the case of Bhutan, we face the challenges of being both landlocked and least developed. Despite limited resources and capacity constraints, we have been making every effort to meet our commitments under the Brussels Program of Action and the Almaty Program of Action. We call upon our development partners to fulfill their commitments under the respective Programs of Action formulated following the Millennium Summit to end the further marginalization of these specially disadvantaged groups of countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Many countries of the South have made remarkable economic and technological progress in the last two decades and are sharing the fruits of their success with others that continue to face various challenges in their development process. My own country has benefited significantly through the

generous technical and economic assistance received from the South. Thus, while partnership with countries of the North remains vital for developing countries, we must continue to foster greater tangible South-South cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels.

In this context, my delegation is pleased to share one such example. On the occasion of the World Summit for Sustainable Development in August 2002 in Johannesburg, Bhutan entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Benin and Costa Rica to promote South South Co-operation. In May this year at The Hague, all three countries established with The Netherlands, the Program for South South Co-operation to support reciprocal activities between Bhutan, Benin and Costa Rica in the areas of biodiversity, sustainable tourism, sustainable production and consumption and energy with gender as a cross cutting theme. This Program for South South Co-operation, fueled with support by our partner from the North, embodies an innovative framework for cooperation between developing countries. We are proud of our involvement in this initiative. We are confident that with the success of activities that will be undertaken within this framework, it could serve as a model for South South Co-operation, actively promoting partnership, and the opportunity to share experiences, exchange of local knowledge and expertise.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation is looking to this Summit with the hope that it will result in strategies that contribute to bringing all countries and institutional stakeholders together in a spirit of true partnership. I wish this Summit every success.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!