STATEMENT BY KARMA CHOEDA, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF BHUTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE GA PLENARY ON AGENDA ITEM 22 (b): PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2014-2024
12 December, 2014, UNGA, New York

Mr. President,

1. Bhutan deeply appreciates the convening of this session to formally endorse the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries by this august assembly and welcomes the opportunity to make few remarks in support of Resolution L.28.

2. Bhutan aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Bolivia on behalf of G77&China and Zambia on behalf of LLDCs.

3. The Vienna Programme of Action has been a result of constructive engagement and positive contributions by all member states. We thank all delegations for their solidarity and support to the group of LLDCs.

4. I wish to also thank Ambassador Per Thöresson of Sweden and Ambassador Khione Phansourivong of Lao People’s Democratic Republic for facilitating the negotiations on the Vienna Programme of Action with great tact and diligence.

Mr. President,

5. The Vienna Programme of Action provides not only a renewed vision but also a road map to address the special development needs and problems of LLDCs in the coming decade. We welcome the fact it is a more holistic and comprehensive programme of action as it seeks to build on the Almaty Programme of Action and includes additional priority
areas that would enable LLDCs to pursue robust economic growth. In this regard, issues of structural economic transformation and infrastructure development are imperative to enable LLDCs to diversify their economy and enhance their productive capacity.

6. We remain confident that the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action will help further our national development goals and objectives.

7. It is propitious that the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action should come before the start of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. In our view, the Vienna Programme of Action provides a good basis for the international community to take on board priorities that are important for LLDCs in the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President

8. Going forward, the focus must now shift to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Towards this end, the utilization of the full range of partnerships available – partnerships with our transit neighbors, development partners, UN System and the private sector – will be indispensable. Much of the success in our national development efforts in the next decade will depend on how far have we been able to successfully implement the VPOA. We, therefore, look forward to working closely with all our development partners and count on their support to implement the VPOA to further advance economic progress and prosperity in landlocked developing countries in the next decade.