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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

MINISTER

Message from the Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan on the 28th Anniversary of BIMSTEC

As we mark the 28th Anniversary of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), I extend my warm greetings and sincere felicitations to all Member States, Partners, and Stakeholders.

Since its inception in 1997, BIMSTEC has been a cornerstone of regional cooperation serving as a vital bridge that connects South Asia and Southeast Asia through a shared vision of peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. Over the past 28 years, we have made commendable strides, laying a strong foundation and gaining valuable ground in key areas such as trade, connectivity, energy, public health, technology and environmental sustainability.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also recognise that much more remains to be done. The evolving regional and global landscape presents us with both complex challenges and emerging opportunities. From deepening economic integration to strengthening climate resilience, enhancing digital connectivity, and ensuring inclusive growth, our work is far from over.

Bhutan remains steadfast in its commitment to the BIMSTEC process and stands ready to contribute constructively to our shared objectives. We believe that with sustained political will, mutual trust, and collective action, BIMSTEC can play an even greater role in shaping a peaceful, resilient, and dynamic Bay of Bengal region.

On this special day, let us celebrate the progress we have made and rededicate ourselves to the path of partnership, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

Tashi Delek.

(D.N Dhungyel)