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Finance Minister Lyonpo Lekey Dorji attends the OPEC Fund's 50th Anniversary and the Development Forum and the CVF-V20's launch of the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Compact, June 23, 2026, at Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria

On the invitation of Her Excellency Hon'ble Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of CVF-V20 and His Excellency, Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, President of the OPEC Fund for International Development, Lyonpo Lekey Dorji attended the OPEC Fund's 50th Anniversary and the Development Forum and the CVF-V20's launch of the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Compact on June 23, 2026, at Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria.

The forum's theme "A Transition that Empowers Our Tomorrow," discussed transformative models for sustainable growth and to foster a high-impact partnership between the V20 Group and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) for mobilizing concessional finance in the water, health, and education sectors.

At the panel discussion, Lyonpo shared Bhutan's strategy for financing next-generation infrastructure, focusing on its Bhutan Resource Mobilization Plan (BRMP) integrating environmental sustainability with economic growth, aligning with the country's Gross National Happiness philosophy. Lyonpo stated that Bhutan is venturing into "Capital Stacking" model, strategically



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blending diverse financial instruments to maximize impact and mitigate risk.

Lyonpo also participated in a round table panel discussion at the V2V Compact launch. The V2V Compact is a strategic, high-impact partnership between Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and the CVF-V20 designed to drive greater flow and affordability of development finance to CVF-V20 countries, particularly in Water, Health, and Education. It is built on a simple operating logic: country-led in priorities, with partner institutions responding in solidarity, sharing risk, effort, and stake in the outcomes.

Lyonpo Lekey Dorji commended the V2V Compact, emphasizing its importance as a country-led initiative for climate-vulnerable economies. Despite being carbon-negative, Bhutan faces significant climate change impacts such as glacial retreat, floods, and landslides, which threaten its infrastructure and communities. Lyonpo highlighted Bhutan's commitment to climate action through its Resource Mobilization Plan, aiming for low-carbon, investment-led transformation and significant hydropower and solar energy development.

Lyonpo also gave an introduction of Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) as a Special Administrative Region integrating sustainable, mindful urban center grounded in environmental stewardship and cultural authenticity, and invited DFIs to invest in GMC leveraging its robust financial ecosystem and investor-



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friendly legal framework creating a stable and predictable environment for investments.

Lyonpo emphasized the need for the V2V Compact to bridge the widening climate financing gap, improved financial terms, minimum 25% concessional floor, extended tenors, and longer grace periods. The Compact should also support blended finance, guarantees, and country-led financial mechanisms to attract private capital and bolster national institutions. Additionally, Lyonpo called for the implementation of shock-responsive instruments, including debt clauses, early-warning trigger protocols, and rapid liquidity provisions, to prevent climate-related shocks from disrupting fiscal discipline.

At the sidelines of the meeting, the Royal Government of Bhutan represented by the finance minister, signed a USD 47.33 million loan agreement with the OPEC Fund for International Development for 55MW Gamri-II hydropower project, and a Framework Agreement for Private Sector Operations on 24th June 2026 at the OPEC Fund's headquarters in Vienna.

The Framework Agreement between the OPEC Fund and Bhutan creates a legal, tax, and policy environment to direct financing of private businesses. The framework allows the OPEC Fund to provide loans, guarantees, or equity investments directly to commercially-viable, privately-owned, or public-private partnership projects in priority sectors like renewable energy, agribusiness, digital, water and sanitation, and



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infrastructure. Host countries benefit from this agreement by attracting direct foreign investment into their private sector.

Lyonpo also held a bilateral meeting with the CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) for possible financing of 110MWp Tsephu Solar Project and expressed Bhutan's interest in financing across broader sectors including renewable energy infrastructures, climate resilience projects, and green technological integration.

Bhutan further engaged in informal discussions with the President of African Development Bank, World Bank's managing director operations Anna Bjerde, and other development finance institutions to explore collaboration in sustainable and innovative financing, as well as climate-resilient investments.

The forum hosted around 650 participants, including high level policy makers, development finance leaders from the WB, ADB, AIIB, Inter-American Development Bank Group, IFAD, African Development Bank, Central American Bank for Economic Integration amongst many, the *private* sector innovators, technology experts, academics and representatives from international organizations and civil society.