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**Speaker: Bangladesh**

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**Draft Statement at the 58th Executive Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board by His Excellency Md. Abdul Hannan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh**

Thank you Mr. President.

I thank the Secretary General for his insightful opening remarks.

We congratulate the UNCTAD Secretariat for producing an excellent report on the LDCs. As always, the report is highly analytical and brings out key issues and policy advice that LDCs can benefit from.

Mr. President,

We associate ourselves with the statements made by the G77 & China, the Asian Group and the LDC Group. In addition, I would like to put forward a few more thoughts on behalf of my delegation.

i. The Report convincingly articulates that the biggest challenge for the LDCs is to create remunerative jobs for the millions of people who enter the labour force each year. A pertinent point made by the Report is the correlation between labour force participation and decent jobs. The fact that LDCs have a high labour force participation rate, does not necessarily reflect a corresponding growth in decent jobs. The lack of an adequate social security system, and limited family support due to low incomes, means that the poor in LDCs have no option but to seek work — no matter what kind of work. Generally low average earnings also mean that more members of a household need to enter the labour market in order to provide sufficient income to sustain the entire household. In this context, the Report rightly reflects the fact that the high labour force participation rate in the LDCs is the desperate need of the poor to work for their survival, rather than an indicator of a well-functioning and effective labour market.

ii. I am sure all LDCs want to attain well-functioning labour market standards, but we need support from the partners and stakeholders in terms of resources and technical assistance for capacity building. We agree with the findings of the Report that employment generation is possible beyond agriculture such as in

tradeable and non-tradeable sectors. The report rightly identifies that the basic services sector do not generally face international competition but the LDCs definitely need focused resource support mechanisms by the development partners. The obligations pertaining to decent job creation also has implications on the so called competitiveness of LDC products. Therefore Special and Differential Treatment to LDCs is very crucial.

Again, in case of decent job creation, Mr. President, it also calls for a huge responsibility, particularly legal, for both public and private sector, along with resources and reforms in the legal framework of respective countries.

iii. Regarding necessary support of the international community and development partners, we would like to mention the role of South-south cooperation, while also reiterating that it cannot be a substitute for North-South cooperation. Remittance flows from workers abroad can continue to help LDCs earn foreign currency mainly targeted for the families of the expatriate workers living back home. However, remittances cannot replace Official Development Assistance which is primarily targeted for development projects such as infrastructure, skill development etc. Diversification and augmentation of industrial production is fundamental but has to be accompanied by removal of supply side constraints and necessary technology transfer. In this regard, I would like to recall the World Trade Report published by the WTO earlier this year which clearly emphasises the importance of trade for development. The role of technology, trade and FDI for development is well analysed in the Report which also calls for increasing attention towards environmental issues.

Mr. President,

iv. The three pronged approach to employment generation along with necessary structural change as outlined in the LDC Report is very crucial. The report emphasizes on developing the services sector, which we believe is very important. Remunerative job creation should not only be in the traditional industrial sector. Now is the time to seriously consider expansion of the services sector in an orderly manner with proper skill development and policy formulations. Skill development is a defining element, otherwise we cannot reap the potential of a huge population dividend in the LDCs. Since MC-9 at Bali decided to be engaged for operationalisation of the services waiver for the

LDCs, we urge the development partners to be forthcoming to provide preferential access for LDC services sector at the earliest. Needless to mention, the full implementation of the Honk Kong Ministerial decision of DFQF market access for LDC products in the developed and developing country markets will contribute to job creation in the LDCs and thus help achieve the ultimate goal of economic growth and development.

In closing, I once again thank the Secretariat, particularly the Director of the LDC Division and his team for their hard work in preparing this excellent Report. UNCTAD's work for LDCs has been outstanding and we encourage UNCTAD to keep up its efforts towards assisting the LDCs, particularly in implementation of the IPoA.

I thank you, Mr. President.