

JUSSCANNZ Statement

The 64th TDB Executive Session

February 6- 8, 2017

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Colleagues,

Let me start by thanking the Secretariat for organizing this meeting and preparing the LDC report, and the material, which inform today's discussion. We believe this meeting provides us a valuable opportunity to deepen our understanding on the challenges and opportunities before LDCs as they tackle graduation and sustainable energy strategies.

The main focus of this year's LDC report is on "Graduation". We think this theme is relevant and properly incorporating its messages will be important for LDCs' sustained economic prosperity. We consider the report's recommendations regarding "graduation with momentum" and the importance of a "graduation-plus strategy" to be especially pertinent. As stressed in the report, having a nationally-developed long term development strategy beyond graduation enables LDCs to adopt national strategies in seven key areas that will contribute to sustained economic progress.

We note with appreciation that the report pays special attention to the importance of empowering women. It stresses that structural transformation and the development of productive capacity cannot be fully effective unless LDCs empower women to develop their potential economic contribution to a much greater extent than at present. We believe this is important for the LDCs which wish to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic prosperity toward and beyond graduation.

JZ countries remain committed to the economic and social development of LDCs, as demonstrated in the negotiation process of UNCTAD 14. It is our strong belief that this organization should continue to focus assistance programs on LDCs. We will continue supporting LDCs through the work of UNCTAD, as well as the other channels such as the EIF, preferential trade treatment and bilateral assistance.

We look forward to the discussion on LDC energy strategy in the following session. We

hope this report and this session's discussions contribute to the development of LDC development strategies and deepen our collective comprehension of the challenges and opportunities that confront them as they work toward graduation and the development and implementation of their sustainable energy strategies.

Thank you for your attention.