

Special Session of the Trade and Development Board

13 June 2016

Statement by Bangladesh on behalf of LDCs

Mr. President,

Distinguished Secretary General,

Ambassador Juma

Distinguished members

I am making this statement on behalf of my Ambassador. He cannot attend this session because of pre-scheduled meeting in Brussels.

The Least developed Countries would like to fully align itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Wayne McCook of Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would also like to appreciate your leadership and leadership of friends of Chair in guiding us through the Preparatory Process of UNCTAD 14. We would like to make few observations for consideration of the whole membership.

First, For LDCs it is important that outcome document emphasizes on the need of policy space and S&DT in any multilateral agreements given the different level of development. These are being recognized for long time both in UNCTAD and other UN fora and in the WTO.

Second, we are of the strong view that in elaborating the mandate of UNCTAD relevant para should only focus on UNCTAD mandate. UNCTAD should continue to work within its mandate. Any text limiting its mandate cannot be accepted.

Third, IPoA and SDG both set goal to doubling share of LDC in global export by 2020 from 1%. However, in 2015 it stood at only 0.97 percent. Reaching the target has become a challenge for us. We are of the view that we need to recognize this fact and take action in this regard.

Fourth, Cotton is very important sector for economic growth for many of LDCs. Therefore, we require specific reference to cotton and action by UNCTAD in this regard.

Fifth, we strongly feel that consensus-building pillar needs to be reactivated in order to revitalize UNCTAD. UNCTAD did useful contribution in past through consensus building mandate and resulted in international agreements in areas covering trade, commodities, debt management, transport and special categories of developing countries. In order to make similar contribution in future we feel that Inter-governmental machinery needs to focus on specific global challenges, where global action is required. For instance, tax evasion and avoidance is a global challenge and global action is required to address this issue. We are of the view that UNCTAD would appropriate forum to initiate discussion on this very important global issue with a view to achieving consensus-based resolution. Besides, Addis Ababa action agenda recognizes that closing technology gaps and scaling up capacity-building at all levels are essential for the shift towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. It also encourages the development, dissemination and diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential

terms, as mutually agreed. In this context, it is important that UNCTAD initiates discussion on how these decisions could be realized through concrete actions. It is also important for LDCs to see faithful implementation Article 66.2 of TRIPS.

Mr. President,

The LDC Group remains committed to supporting you through constructive engagement for a successful outcome of UNCTAD XIV.

I thank you, Mr. President.