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### General Debate

Statement by Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Speaker: His Excellency Mr. Tofail Ahmed MP

*Not checked against delivery\**

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**Statement, on behalf of the LDC Group, by His Excellency Mr. Tofail Ahmed MP, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, during General Debate in the Plenary of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD (UNCTAD XIV)  
(at 1700 hrs on 19 July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya)**

Thank you Madame President.

The LDC Group expresses its deep appreciation to the people and Government of Kenya for successfully hosting this quadrennial Conference and commendable hospitality rendered to all our delegations. The LDC Group aligns itself with the statement by Jamaica on behalf of the G77 and China.

Madame President,

I hope due note has been taken of the two Ministerial declarations adopted respectively by the LDC Group and the G77 and China in the last two days here in Nairobi. In line with those two Declarations and on behalf of the LDC Group, I would like to reiterate the following points here:

First, we believe that the ultimate goal of 2030 sustainable development agenda, aimed, inter alia, at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2030, remains a paramount challenge for developing countries in general and for the LDCs in particular. To meet this and as a means of financing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) needs to be implemented. In the next four years, UNCTAD's work must be aligned with this direction as its crucial role has been well recognized and agreed upon in Addis Ababa.

Second, it is also equally important that the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs continues to be the basis of UNCTAD's work on LDCs, especially in view of the overarching goal of ensuring structural transformation of the LDCs. For this, we need the productive capacity of the LDCs to be enhanced through infrastructure development, coupled with appropriate measures at domestic and international levels for transfer of technology and through building human resource capacity. In this regard, UNCTAD should help find ways and means to reduce infrastructure gaps in the LDCs.

Third, it is crucial for LDC Group that UNCTAD continues to provide support for enabling graduation of half of the LDCs from the LDC category by 2020, which is a target of the IPoA. Sufficient support is required for LDCs that are in the process of graduating from LDC status and post-graduation to ensure that the transition to graduation is as smooth as possible. Support for smooth and sustainable transition through and beyond graduation is critical to ensure that graduation is reversible, on a sure footing, and in a sustainable manner.

Fourth, the LDC Group welcomes the decision to establish technology bank for LDCs and call for its early operationalization in view of its potential to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Fifth, the LDC Group underscores the need of receiving official development assistance (ODA) on a predictable basis with long-term commitments. It is important that the international community fulfill the commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA and 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the LDCs.

Sixth, both IPoA and SDGs set a goal to double the share of LDCs in global export by 2020 from current 1%. Since in 2015 it receded to only 0.97 percent, reaching the target has become a challenge for the LDCs. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the WTO, should take action to find ways and means to reach this target.

Seventh, it is important for the LDCs to have policy space and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) in all multilateral agreements targeting development of common approach. This is also important that the Right to Development of the Developing Countries, including the LDCs, is recognized.

Eighth, the outcome and decisions of the 9th and 10th WTO Ministerial conferences must be implemented. It is utmost important for a number of LDCs that the concerns and request of the LDCs relating to substantial reduction of domestic support granted to cotton be addressed with the view to their elimination.

Ninth, it is essential for LDCs to have improved market access for their exports, including by ensuring implementation of the decision on duty-free and quota-free access for all products for all LDCs in accordance with relevant multilateral outcomes, applying the special and different treatment and facilitating trade in services.

Tenth, UNCTAD needs to be adequately resourced for continuing its analytical work and technical cooperation particularly to help LDCs in their efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Finally, Mr. Madam President, we emphasize on revitalization and strengthening of UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery by building consensus on policies that bring the interests of LDCs to the fore in order to ensure that the trade and development challenges facing them are addressed coherently and efficiently.

Madame President,

The LDCs are indeed the most vulnerable segment among the developing countries, and their special needs should continue to be addressed by the international community. UNCTAD's work on LDCs, through its Africa, LDC and LLDC Division needs further strengthening in coming days. The annual flagship LDC Report of UNCTAD is immensely beneficial for us. The ongoing endeavor of the LDCs in the WTO to achieve further market access needs policy support and technical assistance by UNCTAD. UNCTAD also needs to continue having close coordination with the Office of the High Representative on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (OHRLLS) as well as other agencies and bodies in order to work collectively to ensure successful implementation of the IPoA, the 2030 agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). I wish to conclude by expressing LDC Group's appreciation to UNCTAD's and its Secretary General's continued support for the development of our countries. We hope that the outcome of this Conference would fully capture the call for further strengthening of UNCTAD's work for LDCs in next four years under your able leadership.

Thank you Madame President.