

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin
Permanent Representative of Sudan,
On behalf of the African Group,**

Item 10: Activities carried out in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

Mr. President,

I would like to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the effort made by UNCTAD in advancing the implementation of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) on LDCs. However, more effort has yet to be done. It is therefore crucial that, for the LDCs to be able to meet the SDGs, UNCTAD and the whole international community need to double their efforts towards assisting the LDCs in line with statement of the Director business as usual will not help to accordance with the eight priority areas identified in the Istanbul Program of Action.

Mr. President,

Cognizant that two third of the African Countries are LDCs, what happens in African LDCs affects the whole continent hence it will hinder the achievement of the ambitious aspiration of Agenda 2063 (The Africa We Want) the prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The African Group believes that any progress towards to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action could only be achieved through structural transformation and economic diversification, to allow for the creation of employment and higher value-added sectors.

Mr. President,

One of the challenges we have to address is the need to explore how the least developed countries could strengthen domestic resource mobilization and increase access to international development finance, including exploring how public–private partnerships could be used more effectively. Other challenges are related to enabling the private sector, accessing the technology and skills needed for higher value added production, exploring the mechanisms needed to effectively participate in global value chains and to draw development benefits from them and promoting greater foreign direct investment flows and technology transfer to the least developed countries. Another challenge concerned overall policy prioritization and coherence, which depended on individual country circumstances.

Mr. President,

We believe that least developed countries need to move from graduation strategies focused on qualification for graduation to graduation and beyond strategies that take a long-term perspective and foster structural transformation. Elements of such strategies include industrial policies, agricultural upgrading, scaling up of public investment and technology transfer. We urge the international community to support LDCs with finance, investment and capacity building to help these countries build up competitive productive capacity, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development and trade supporting infrastructure must be part of a wider package to support graduating LDCs.

I thank you Mr. President.