

**Statement of the LDC Chair on behalf of the group during
the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum**

30 January 2024

Madam President

**Her Excellency Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary
General**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

I am honored to make this statement on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) group.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for organizing this forum and bringing together all the stakeholders to navigate through the existing challenges of the 2030 Agenda and forge innovative solutions in that effort.

To our group of countries still struggling at the bottom rung of the development ladder and lagging far behind on the path to achieving the 2030 Agenda, the prioritized Goals of no poverty,

zero hunger, climate action, peace, justice and strong institutions, and partnership are ever relevant. These are the goals in which the LDCs have progressed below the global average.

Already struggling with inherent vulnerabilities, the least developed countries are also shouldering the additional burden of adversities created by the concurrent global poly crises. At the midpoint of 2030, the LDCs have made progress on only 28% of the SDGs. They are farther from the goals deemed achievable in 2015.

Among 1.1 billion people living in multidimensional poverty in 2023, the majority live in the least developed countries including 48 percent in sub-Saharan Africa and 35 percent in South Asia. The global wealth gap is ever-rising.

Amidst this global multi-crisis, food insecurity in the LDCs is challenging as a crisis within a crisis. Data indicates that more than 251 million people in LDCs are severely food insecure.

The repercussions in the aftermath have manifested in rising levels of poverty, inequality, inflation, and food and fuel crises in these countries including the LDCs.

The persistent global climate change crisis is creating a major concern for the devastating impact on the overall development effort of the least developed countries.

Accelerated economic vulnerabilities, rising debt distress, and subdued investment levels among others need not be over-emphasized again. The confluence of global shocks has resulted in unsustainable debt with currently 7 LDCs in debt distress and another 14 at high risk, showing the insufficiency of implemented measures to address debt.

Despite such vulnerabilities, the promises and commitments on international climate finance and official development assistance (ODA) are unfulfilled whereas the external financing that LDCs can access is expensive, insufficient, and comes with economic and political strings.

Madam President,

Against the derailed picture of progress to achieve SDGs in the LDCs, it becomes clear that action as usual is never enough to meet the challenges.

Significant reform in the overall global economic and financial architecture is necessary.

I am confident that the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum is a significant opportunity to enhance partnership and synergy between the Member States and all other key stakeholders, including the UN system, international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, NGOs, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders.

The partnership is critical in implementing the necessary instruments and mitigating the adversities in the LDCs' development effort.

Urgent and bold action from the international community is important to ensure LDCs have better access to affordable, long-

term international financing. There is a need for more climate finance on adaptation.

We strongly urge our development partners to commit to rechannelling \$100 billion in Special Drawing Rights without further delay to help LDCs get back on track to meet their sustainable development goals.

We must ensure that the countries in special situations such as LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS are among the main beneficiaries of the Loss and Damage Fund due to the heightened vulnerabilities to climate change.

It is now more necessary than ever to work in a synchronized manner to urgently rescue the most vulnerable countries regressing in the SDG achievement.

In this context, the LDCs recognize the role of ECOSOC in promoting international collaboration and partnership for development and call the Council for increased engagement for renewed partnership in SDG implementation.

Our synergised partnership should reinstall faith and hope in our commitment to leaving none behind.

I thank you for your kind attention.