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Statement on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the First Inter-Sessional Meeting of UNCSD: Session II – Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (New York, 10 January 2011)

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I thank you for organizing today's discussion. I also thank the distinguished panelists for their eloquent presentations. Before having ~~some~~ questions, allow me to make a short statement on behalf of the Group of LDCs.

Eradication of Poverty and hunger is a cross cutting issue and an overarching goal of us all without which sustainable economic and social development can not to be achieved in the LDCs as poverty remains high in most LDCs. It has declined only from 60.4 to 53.4 per cent of the total population from 1999 to 2005. More than three fourths (about 78%) of the population in these countries is still living on less than \$2 a day. The mutually reinforcing and exacerbating impacts of food, energy, economic and financial crises together with the adverse and disproportionate impacts of climate change have negatively affected the efforts of these countries towards the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.

As far as the newly emerged concept of a 'green economy' is concerned, we must strive to work towards a clear and acceptable definition to all in order to establish its beneficial linkages with sustainable development and poverty eradication. Even though efforts have been made to explain and correlating it in the context of sustainable development and eradication of poverty in some earlier discussions, reports and literatures; the concept is still in the evolving process. The concept 'green economy' is often found to have focused on the intersection between environment and economy. In this context, we would like to underline as follows:

1. It is obvious that 'green economy' may not be an objective by itself; it could be a means to an end of sustainable development and poverty alleviation.
2. This should not be interpreted as conditionality or a burden to LDCs in the harnessing of resources in these countries for alleviating poverty.
3. This should be used to promote and enhance the capacity in LDCs without constraining the policy space to pursue their own way of social, economic and development activities in accordance with their own situations and priorities. Furthermore, green economy should be geared towards enhancing substantial transfer of new environment friendly technology to LDCs with strong international supportive mechanisms.

We believe that any conceptualization should satisfy all concerned in order to come to the consensual definition about the 'green economy'.

Questions:

1. What do you think about the role of 'green economy' in relation to assisting the LDCs for having an accelerated pace of development process in order to attain sustainable development and poverty eradication?
- ② ~~What implications would it have to the macro-economic policies and international trade?~~
3. What kind of approach would the 'green economy' have towards the LDCs, ~~especially~~ in the areas ~~of~~ such as enhancement of productive capacity, trade, ~~and overall~~ country policies, transition management, human resources management, addressing the problems of employment, fulfilling technological gaps including the affordability and transfer of technology?

Thank you.