

Oral Statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft
resolution A/C.2/66/L.61, entitled "Fourth United Nations
Conference on the Least Developed Countries"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

2. In operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the President of the General Assembly to establish, in consultation with the Member States and the Secretary-General, an Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

3. As regards the Ad Hoc Working Group meetings, as called for in operative paragraph 14, it is determined that the requirements to service the Ad Hoc Working Group meetings with interpretation and other support services would be covered by using the budgetary provisions provided to service the General Assembly on the understanding that there will be no parallel meetings of the General Assembly or its Working Groups at the same time.

4. As regards the report as called for in operative paragraph 14, additional requirements, totaling \$64,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would arise to process this document (estimated 10,700 words) in all six languages. The Secretary-General will make every effort to absorb the additional costs.

5. In summary, should the draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.61 be adopted, no additional programme budget implications would arise for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.