

**LDC Statement in the informal on outcome of the FFD Forum
ECOSOC Chamber, 2 May 2017**

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

Good Afternoon.

At the outset, we would like to thank you sincerely for presenting the zero draft which is efficiently drafted, concise and captures a number of key priorities of LDCs and other members of the UN.

We fully align ourselves with the statement of the G77 and China. We are taking the floor to highlight some elements that are particularly important for LDCs.

The draft provides a solid basis for our negotiations.

The first and foremost principle, we must keep in mind that we will not allow, by any means, downgrading the AAAA. Guided by this principle, we would make few proposals.

In paragraph 12 we have noted that some key elements of the AAAA decisions are missing. We would request you to add the issues related to scaling -up efforts by the donor countries to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets. We would also propose to bring upfront the reference to setting a target of at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries, in line with para 51 and 52 of the Addis Agenda.

The paragraph on trade (para 14) in the zero draft has bypassed the core issues agreed upon in the AAAA. LDCs are privileged to have Special and Differential (S&D) treatment in the WTO which includes the DFQF market access. We want to maintain the integrity of the market access facilities for LDCs and to see concrete reference to DFQF market access for LDCs as reflected in para 85 of the AAAA.

We also want to see a reference to allocating an increasing proportion of the Aid for Trade going to least developed countries as agreed upon in para 90 of the AAAA.

Another important decision is the investment promotion regimes for LDCs as contained in paragraph 46 of the Addis Agenda. We are happy that the zero draft makes a reference to that. However, this needs to be adjusted in line with the AAAA which agreed to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

Finally, we would like to see some references to international cooperation, including financial and technical support, to further strengthen the statistical capacity of LDCs. (AAAA-126)

Thank you