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**VANUATU NATIONAL STATEMENT  
General Debate  
ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK**

**17 April 2019**

**Delivered by Amb. Odo TEVI,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United  
Nations**

**Madam President;  
Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and I wish to align it with the statements delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Belize on behalf of AOSIS and Malawi on behalf of the Group of LDCs.

**Madam President,**

Since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2015, sound progress has been made in terms of private sector investment in sustainable development and in the health and well-being across age groups and genders, South-South cooperation continues to develop, climate finance flows have increased, and many countries are aligning their financing with long-term priorities.

However, Vanuatu remains concerned that progress in financing for development has yet to reach the required scale and speed we envisaged when we adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Investments that are crucial to achieving sustainable development goals remain insufficient and underfunded. Continuing on a business-as-usual *modus operandi* is no longer viable if we wish to fulfil the promise of alleviating millions out of poverty by 2030.

**Madam President,**

Financing the 2030 Agenda which requires mobilizing resources for sustainability in a manner that leaves no one behind remains our key challenge. Cognizant of the special development challenges including the ever increasing threat Climate Change poses to achieving SDGs for SIDS, Vanuatu calls for more favorable access to concessional resources to include a measure of vulnerability when assessing eligibility for concessional finance.

Moreover, closing international climate finance gaps to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change remains an important priority for Small Island Developing States including Vanuatu.

**Madam President,**

Capacity development in all aspects of the 2030 Agenda remains crucial for SIDS and in particular for LDCs. As LDCs transition to middle-income status, we call for phased LDC-specific support measures for a certain period after graduation to guarantee smooth transition - ensuring sustainability and minimal disruptions to their economies.

**Madam President,**

Mobilizing domestic resources is critical for SIDS. Strengthening and diversifying public revenues, including developing Vanuatu's domestic financial market, continues to be a priority for the Vanuatu Government. Capacity development in this endeavor is also crucial. Domestic resources alone, however, are insufficient to finance the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations, as the leading, most experienced multilateral organization must do more to bring all kinds and echelons of actors to the table to enhance sustainable financial partnerships. Financing for Development is everyone's business – for all stakeholders to create innovative, integrated approaches to financing the 2030 Agenda that leaves no one behind.

I thank you.