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Statement by

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at a High-level Meeting on
The Mid-term Comprehensive Global Review of
The Programme of Action for
The Least Developed Countries
For the Decade 2001-2010

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China on the progress of the Programme for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. We believe that the implementation of this Programme can and should be made more effective.

To achieve development, the LDCs must overcome greater challenges and meet larger needs than those confronting all other countries. Only through meaningful partnership with the developed world can these challenges and needs be prevented from becoming unmanageable and overwhelming the LDCs.

Hence, this emphasis can be seen by the fact that the current session of the General Assembly has chosen global partnership for development as its theme.

It is true that developed countries have been increasing their support for the LDCs in keeping with the Programme of Action and their commitments to the MDGs. But they have to do more to enable the LDCs to achieve truly significant progress. They have to do more for the LDCs in terms of opening up markets, increasing ODA and FDI flows, and enhancing debt management, private sector development, access to technology and global governance.

It is also true that some LDCs have achieved seven percent growth and have attained selected MDGs targets—but these gains can vanish in the face of spiraling oil prices and severely bad weather. That is what happened in the 1970s and the 1980s. Preventive policy measures should therefore be taken.

Recent events, however, have not been encouraging.

The collapse of the Doha round is one example of the unfortunate development that make developing countries, particularly the LDCs, become more marginalized in the trade liberalization. The LDCs urgently need an international trading system with a strong preference programme that would allow them duty-free and quota-free access to developed markets. That would give life to the principle of global partnership.

Mr. Chairman,

One way to help the LDCs national development is through the framework of South-South Cooperation as it would provide them with great opportunity to share development experiences and good practices with other developing countries.

This is especially true in the area of capacity building, an area of cooperation that should be strengthened considerably in the future, particularly in the field of trade, investment and financial sector. In this regard, practical measures will have to be taken in the form of triangular

cooperation where developed countries could also contribute effectively to enhance capacity building programme for LDCs.

For its part, Indonesia has also contributed to capacity building programme through Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC) under triangular cooperation that involves donor countries and institutions, particularly in the area of microfinance, family planning, agriculture, economic policy development, as well as sponsored scholarships for studies in Indonesia for a number LDCs.

Indonesia has also been rendering technical assistance to LDCs both in Asia and Africa in the spirit of the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership that was launched in Jakarta in April 2005.

Furthermore, we also have contributed to LDCs development through the Non-Aligned Movement Center for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) in Jakarta. The Center was established at the initiative of the Government of Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam during the 11th NAM Summit in Cartagena, Colombia in 1995, with the objective of assisting developing countries, including the LDCs, to eradicate poverty and promote rapid and sustainable national socio-economic growth. The Center has endeavored to collaborate closely with other organizations that include UNEP, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), IDB and CIRDAP.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain optimistic on the long-term prospects of the LDCs. Change is finally taking place in their plight, but too slowly. We must accelerate the pace of recovery, of growth.

This means that we the developing countries must once more strive in earnest with our developed partners to deliver the most meaningful support that can be extended to the LDCs.

There are still some extreme cases where rescue operations may have to be undertaken. When that happens, let us deem it a matter of moral obligation. No country should be left so far behind that it is in danger of losing a generation or even of perishing.

We are all responsible for one another's fate—for the plight of the weakest and poorest among us. We must find the political will to help the LDCs rise out of their severe predicament.

Otherwise we will find out soon enough that extreme poverty anywhere undermines the future of humankind as a whole.

Human destiny cannot be divided.

I thank you.