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Statement by
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Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of
Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade
2001 - 2010

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Madame President,

I would like at the outset to congratulate you on presiding this meeting and to wish you success in concluding a comprehensive and objective assessment of the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. We also hope to identify the difficulties and impediments that prevented an economic and developmental transformation from taking place in many of these countries. I also would like to express my country's support to the statement of Her Excellency Dr. "Nkosazana C. Dlamini Zuma", Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madame President,

Various economical studies indicate that the global economy has witnessed, in the past few years, a healthy rate of growth. However, only a limited number of the least developed countries have this rate of growth and, thus, will be able to achieve the Millennium Goals by the year 2015. As you all know, some of these goals are to bring down the number of those whose income is below a dollar a day, as well as the numbers of those who are victims of hunger; to achieve a comprehensive elementary school education; to bring about gender equality; to decrease the rate of infant mortality; and to fight the AIDS epidemic.

While these indicators seem positive and call for optimism, other indicators confirm that for a number of these countries, the majority of them in Africa, are still far from reaching the MDG's. If things do not change, these countries will also be unable to achieve the goals and purposes of the Brussels Action Program. This should be a reason for concern and preoccupation.

While we recognize that the cause of the failure to achieve the goals of the Brussels Action Program cannot be attributed only to the weakness in the economic structure of these countries, their limited human and institutional capabilities as well as their failure to mobilize resources on the local level, but also as a definite result of the modest response of the international community to the challenges that these countries face and its poor contributions that remained unable of making effective economic and developmental transformation in the various fields. Therefore, it is our view that the responsibility of the international community towards these countries lies in supporting their national priorities by increasing the volume of official development aid, such aid should be transparent and based on respecting the choices of their peoples and their political priorities. We also emphasize the importance of aiding these countries to obtain technology at a reasonable price, provide training opportunities, and the transfer of know-how and experiences that would achieve a progressive economic growth and sustainable development that would limit poverty, hunger and disease.

Expanding trade opportunities for these countries and opening the world market for their exports, dealing with their foreign debts, reducing the fluctuations in the prices of basic agricultural products, promoting the diversification of their exports and reducing tariffs as well as honoring the commitments made in the Brussels Action Program and the recommendations included in the "Kotono" strategy. All these are considered the pillars and the main factors that would guarantee the success of the development efforts these countries exert in the various fields.

We may also mention that, since a great number of the citizens of the less developed countries rely on agriculture to make their living, it is important to provide the necessary finances and technologies that will encourage investment in this sector. This

will increase food production and help solves the problem of hunger in these countries.

For this reason, and in pursuit of the economical integration of the member states of the African Union, and the importance of investing the available means and resources for this integration which aims, as a priority, to deal with the subject of food security in the continent. My country has organized a number of high level meetings on the areas of agriculture and water resources. Policy makers and experts who attended these meetings have made specific recommendations which we are certain, if implemented, will help these countries reach high rates of agricultural growth.

Following some of these recommendations, my country has established vigorous joint agricultural \ industrial projects with several African countries which will provide more goods and more jobs to some of the citizens of these countries.

Finally, my country calls upon the international community to fulfill its promises to the least developed countries. My country would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its willingness to contribute to any specific programs of sustainable development. Only such programs will help us to end poverty, hunger and disease and promote the aspirations of these countries in developing the educational and sanitary programs that would guarantee their advancement and their progress towards a better life.

Thank you, Madame President.