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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement of the Sudan Delegation

Before

**The High-Level Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the
Implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for the Least
Developed Countries for the Decade (2001-2010)**

Dr. Eltigani Salih Fidail

Minister of International Cooperation

New York, September 18, 2006

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies,

It gives me is great pleasure and joy, to convey to you my sincere congratulations for your selection to steer this important conference, a task you have been undertaking with capability, skill and wisdom, thereby providing a strong impetus for the efforts we have been exerting towards fulfilling our desired goals.

Allow me at the outset, Mr. Chairman, acting on my personal capacity and on behalf of my delegation, to profusely thank those who have organized this important conference, and for the great ground work they have laid before us in preparation for this high-level meeting, which aims at the realization of the objectives of development, by seeking to remove obstacles that obstruct efforts to eradicate poverty and misery, and the realization of the aspirations of our peoples for genuine peace and development.

Mr. Chairman:

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the progress report he has submitted on the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and for the useful

information and excellent statistics it contained, testifying to the achievements we have made during the previous period.

Mr. Chairman

As stated in the report, although progress has been made in implementing the Brussels Plan of Action, poverty levels continue to be on the rise in many of the least developing countries, and despite the fact that some of these countries, especially the oil-exporting countries, have achieved a measure of progress this, does not necessarily mean that a great many of these countries can no longer be considered poor, owing to inadequacies and weaknesses of their economic infrastructure, a fact which is too obvious to overlook.

In this regard, Sudan is greatly alarmed by the rising spread of HIV (AIDS), TB, malaria and other epidemics in the LDCs, particularly in Africa, at a time when some other important social indicators continue to show considerable levels of decline, thereby aggravating the poverty situation, and in turn making the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action beyond the reach of many states.

Addressing this situation makes it imperative on the part of those involved, the least developing countries and their development partners, to exert maximum efforts and renew and reinforce their commitment to implement the Program of Action by mobilizing all

the human resources necessary, in view of the obvious importance of the human element in meeting such objectives and goals.

Needless to say, the availability of financial resources is crucial for the success of the Brussels Plan of Action. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all development partners to meet the obligations they have undertaken in the area of assistance, debt forgiveness, and capacity-build. In this context, we would also like to stress the important role of international trade in achieving those objectives by *inter alia*, allowing access to markets and facilitating trade.

Mr. Chairman

It has become clear from the findings of the regional meetings that were convened in Bangkok and Addis Ababa, in addition to the ministerial meeting that was held in Cotonou, that a great number of the LDCs have made considerable progress in various areas, such as human rights, conflict resolution, democratization, good governance, the rule of law and combating corruption. A great many of those countries have also made considerable progress in developing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), as well as in designing and implementing national programs in the area of the environment.