April 30, 2012

Dear Colleague,

As we approach the final stage of our mandate as Co-Chairs of the Ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the LDC category, we are pleased to inform you that we will convene its fourth substantive meeting on 8 May 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., in Conference Room 3 of the North Lawn Building.

The fourth substantive meeting will be divided in two distinct parts. During the first part, the Ad hoc working group will continue its consideration of challenges and opportunities in the preparation and implementation of transition strategies by graduating and graduated countries, including the establishment of the consultative mechanism foreseen in resolution 59/209 adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2004. We will therefore continue to explore gaps and LDCs’ concerns related to the process of smooth transition. An open and free-flowing exchange of views will follow the presentations on what possible approaches could be developed to further support countries in this process.

During the second part, we will present an outline of recommendations summarizing the vast array of concrete proposals that have been put forward by Member States and other development partners during the substantive meetings of the working group on how to strengthen the smooth transition process and boost the confidence of future graduating countries on continued development support from the international community.

The tentative programme of the fourth substantive meeting as well a draft outline of our recommendations, along with its respective issues note prepared by the CDP and UN-OHRLLS secretariats will be available on the UN_OHRLLS website at http://www.unohrlls.org/en/ldc/916/.
Based on the results of the working group’s discussion, a list of recommendations will be incorporated in the report of the Ad hoc working group that we intend to put together during the month of May. In keeping with the agreed programme of work, we plan to convene a final formal meeting of the Ad hoc working group in June in order to conclude our mandate.

We kindly remind all delegations that the recommendations of the Ad hoc working group are not intended to be necessarily consensus positions but summarize the key issues and proposals presented by Member States to facilitate possible further consideration at the forthcoming 67th session of the General Assembly.

Given the important agenda of the fourth substantive meeting for the successful completion of the mandate entrusted to us by the General Assembly, we would appreciate your delegation’s active participation, at the highest possible level, characterized by the same positive and collaborative approach that has made our working group proceed so smoothly and productively.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Brian G. Bowler
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations

Jan Grauls
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations