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Our reference	date
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Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to actively participate in the first substantive meeting of the Ad hoc working group (AHWG) to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the LDC category. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, 16 February 2012 in conference room 6 (NLB)**.

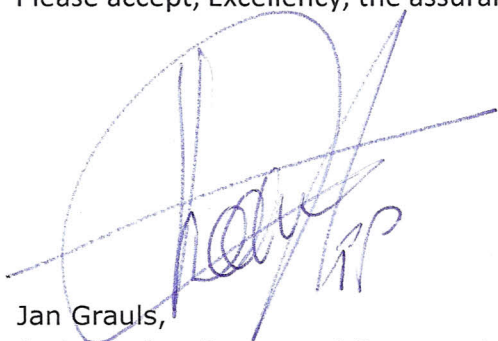
The objective of the meeting, the first in a series of substantive thematic debates that the working group will hold based on its programme of work during the next few months, is to take stock of the current situation regarding LDC-specific international support measures as well as existing smooth transition measures. The meeting is expected to identify gaps and consider LDCs' concerns related to the phase-out of those measures. There will be an open and free-flowing exchange of views on what possible approaches could be developed to address those gaps and concerns.

A programme of the meeting is herewith enclosed, along with an issues note prepared by the UN-OHRLLS as secretariat of the working group. Further background documentation is available on the UN-OHRLLS website at <http://www.unohrlls.org/en/ldc/916/>.

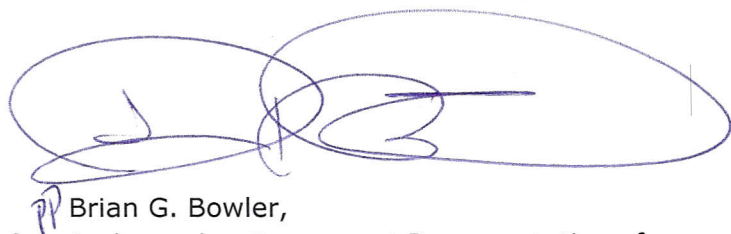
We were much encouraged by the strong interest in and support to the mandate of the AHWG that emerged from the organization meeting held on January 16th. We are confident that through such positive and collaborative spirit we will be able to successfully achieve a substantial strengthening of the smooth transition process therefore better supporting the graduating countries in their post-LDC life.

We look forward to your substantive contribution and active participation in the course of the activities of the AHWG.

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



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



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