Statement by Minister-Counsellor LUO Jin of Chinese Mission to the UN at the Second Committee of the 70th Session of the GA under Item 23: “Groups of countries in special situations”

Oct. 29, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

China associates itself with the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

With the sluggish growth of the world economy, widening gap between the North and the South, worsening humanitarian crises and frequent occurrence of natural disasters, the already vulnerable least developed countries and landlocked developing countries are suffering from economic downturn and a decrease of external assistance. On top of that, the Ebola epidemic has yet to be completely stamped out and countries concerned are still struggling with post-epidemic reconstruction. The task of realizing development is indeed arduous. In this connection, I wish to stress the following points:

Firstly, ODA is the most direct and effective support to the LDCs and the LLDCs, as well as their major source of external finance for development. We call on the main donors to honor their ODA commitments, reverse the downward trend of ODA resources and increase the portion of their assistance
initiatives in the six-priority areas identified by the Programme of Action and do its part in supporting the efforts of the LLDCs to achieve the SDGs.

Fifthly, as the lead organ in this endeavor, the UN office of the high representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS should be further strengthened both in terms of function and in terms of resources, so as to ensure its adequate capacity to monitor the implementation of the above programmes of action.

Mr. Chairman,

China has been a steadfast supporter for the development of the LDCs and the LLDCs, and has been providing help to them to the best of its capability through various channels and in various forms within the framework of South-South cooperation. Recently, during his attendance at the summits on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of our organization, the Chinese president Xi Jinping announced a series of new initiatives, including continued increase of China’s investment in the LDCs and exempting the debt of the outstanding inter-governmental interest free loans due by the end of 2015 owed by relevant LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. In addition, China will provide 2 million US dollars in cash to the WHO to be used to set up a contingency fund for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of the international community to respond to epidemics and sudden public health incidents.

China stands ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with all parties, set the vision on the long term objective, do more to support the development of countries in special situations, and work with other member states and the UN to strive for the realization of the SDGs.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman