STATEMENT BY
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On Agenda Item 23: Countries in special situations

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to align with the statements delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Lao PDR on behalf of ASEAN. I wish to thank the Secretary General for his reports presented under this agenda item.

My delegation welcomes the continued progress achieved by the least developed countries towards meeting the 47 goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action in its fourth year of implementation.

Despite the substantial progress, we are concerned that many least developed countries are not likely to reach the Millennium Development Goals in a timely manner; or achieve the goals and targets included in the Programme of Action by the end of the decade. Poverty is still widespread in many least developed countries, with nearly half of their population living in extreme poverty.

The structural transformation of the least developed countries was fledgling and insufficient, and investment rates, which are low but improving, need to be further accelerated and sustained over a long period of time.
Indonesia shares the concern that despite improvements in their investment climates, many LDCs continue to be largely side-lined by Foreign Direct Investment that could help diversify their economies.

Increased efforts and concrete actions need to be taken.

We call on international community to increase supports to least developed countries in their efforts and actions to achieve the goals and targets of the Programme of Action.

Indonesia agrees that if the least developed countries are to meet the more comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals, structural transformation will have to be prioritized. In this regard, and as agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, developed countries must meet their official development assistance commitments of 0.15 to 0.20 percent of their GNI to LDCs.

Needless to say Indonesia also sees the importance of increased investment in LDCs by both public and private, which would help them generate employment and in turn reduce poverty. However these countries need to have the necessary policy space so their governments may effectively employ the proper mix of policies to deal with employment and poverty issues.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action as the development blueprint for landlocked developing countries for the next decade, by addressing their special needs.

Indonesia also sees the importance of addressing the special needs of the landlocked developing countries, in particular those relating to infrastructure development, trade development and trade facilitation, regional integration, productive capacity-building and structural transformation in the context of the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

We welcome the establishment of a global infrastructure forum building on existing multilateral collaboration mechanisms, led by the multilateral development banks.
We believe it will encourage a greater range of voices to be heard, particularly from developing countries, to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in developing countries, in particular in the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and African countries.

A multidimensional approach is required to responding to the specific problems of landlockedness as a development challenge and to fully implement the Vienna Programme of Action.

We would like to highlight three important elements of such multidimensional approach.

First, the implementation of policies and measures aimed at economic restructuring and specialization in these countries that take into account their transport-related obstacles. The development of productive capacities is a key element of this process.

Second, the importance of renewed and strengthened partnerships that involve landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners, the United Nations system entities and other international organizations, as well as the private sector.

Last, necessary support from the international community in the form of ODA, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as increasing the role of the private sector, to provide more resources for investing in infrastructure development and maintenance, improving trade facilitation, increasing trade, structural transformation, addressing internal and external vulnerabilities and capacity-building.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude my statement, I would like to reiterate Indonesia’s commitment to join the efforts by the international community in ensuring that least developed countries and landlocked developing countries are not left behind.

I thank you.