Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor.

Let me begin by aligning my statement with those delivered on this agenda item by South Africa, Bangladesh and Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) respectively. I thank H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing this morning.

I take this opportunity to extend my delegation’s sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports under this agenda item. These reports elaborate the way forward on the issues and concerns of the LDCs and LLDCs, to which Nepal places great importance as a member of both the groups of countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal highly values the initiatives taken by the UN in addressing the challenges and problems confronting the LDCs and LLDCs. These initiatives have been instrumental for mobilizing international support for the sustainable development of these countries. In view of the fact that the groups of countries in special situations face vulnerabilities of different types impeding their development efforts, they need revitalized partnership and strengthened cooperation with commensurate means of implementation in a sustained and predictable manner in support of their efforts.

Nepal has been deeply involved in the SDGs process and has been advocating for the effective implementation of the universal and transformative 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda without any time lag like in similar efforts before. Therefore, Nepal calls for the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda starting from the first of January 2016 so that no one is left behind. The ownership and integration of the Agenda into the development strategies at national, sub-national, and regional levels is of prime importance in this regard.

Likewise, the timely, full and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs and Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda remains fundamental to build their productive capacity, address structural barriers and ultimately eliminate poverty at its core. Nepal holds the belief that the sustainable graduation of the LDCs as recognized in the Ministerial Declaration in Kathmandu in Dec. 2014
requires a robust, dependable and sustainable trade and transit infrastructures and facilities without any hindrances for boosting their trade and investment related capacity and potentials.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal is prone to multiple disasters, and has been bearing the negative and disproportionate effect of climate change. Given the risk and vulnerability we are facing Nepal looks forward to the COP21 in Paris this December and the World Humanitarian Summit next year. Nepal underscores the need of a climate fund for the LDCs and also calls for the effective implementation of Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction. In this regard, sincere implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is vital to realize our common development goals.

Nepal underlines that a proper and timely integration of the information and communication technologies into development efforts is extremely important for facilitating the LDCs and LLDCs in their efforts for economic growth, development and prosperity. In this regard, the WSIS+10 Preparatory Process needs to be more LDCs and LLDCs friendly in order to materialize the noble idea of “bringing the great potential of ICT to all people and use it as an enabler for poverty reduction”. Similarly, we also urge for the early operationalization of the technology bank for the LDCs.

Nepal has been implementing the IPOA and VPOA into its national plan and development endeavours and is committed to integrating the ambitious 2030 Agenda. While Nepal was on track in achieving most of the MDGs goals, and has a graduation plan from the status of LDC by 2022, the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal early this year shattered our hard-gained development achievements.

In the aftermath of the earthquakes, the Government is focused on reconstruction and rebuilding works with a build back better approach through a comprehensive reconstruction plan in convergence with the planned development mainstream of Nepal. In addition to that, we are focused on capacity and infrastructure development, connectivity improvement, and domestic resources mobilization, among others, in tandem with its national, regional and international commitments.

In view of the fact that the landlocked-ness has been a major impediment to development and prosperity of the LLDCs, we seek bilateral, sub-regional and regional approaches to transit and transport cooperation in providing more efficient and competitive choices to LLDCs. The LLDCs rightly deserve special understanding from the transit countries, enhanced support from the development partners as well as multilateral development institutions and involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders in order to enable them to benefit from the available opportunities at all levels.
To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I share my delegation’s confidence that our discussions and deliberations on the concerns and constraints of the LDCs and LLDCs will prove meaningful towards improving their situation on the ground.

I thank you for your attention.