Thank you Mr. Chair for giving me the floor and the opportunity to contribute to the discussions.

1. I align my remarks with the statements delivered by Thailand on behalf of G77&China, Bangladesh on behalf of the LDCs and Zambia on behalf of LLDCs.

2. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the various reports presented under this agenda item.

3. Allow me to pick up on some of the important points contained in the Secretary General’s report.

4. LDCs are making good progress in the implementation of the IPOA with the support of the international community. The Mid Term Review of IPOA further provided the political commitment and direction for the LDCs to realize the IPOA in its final phase.

5. A critical lesson learned from years of implementing the IPOA is that LDCs continue to face low levels of productivity, compounded by the fact that LDCS have been victims to natural disasters and impacts of climate change. Structural transformation of the economy within the LDCs can contribute to building the productive capacity within the LDCs, which can contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth in the LDCS.

6. The vast human resource potential in the LDCS remain yet to be tapped. A long term development strategy based on delivery of quality education including vocational skills and providing women and young people with avenues for entrepreneurship can unlock the economic potential in the LDCs.

7. Given the structural constraints that LDCs face, global support in terms of resources, capacity and technical assistance will be critical in the full realization of the IPOA in the years ahead.

8. In this regard, in most LDCs the UN development system is an important development partner. It is therefore essential that the resolution on QCPR speaks to the needs of the LDCs. We believe that the national level implementation of the 2030 agenda is important and the UN development system should devote its expertise and resources to supporting the LDCs at the country level.
9. Bhutan welcomes good developments on the establishment of the Technology Bank for LDCs. We fully recognize the important benefits that the LDCs would be able to get out of the Technology Bank in terms of building capacity and bridging the technology gap faced by LDCs. We would, therefore, call for the early ratification of the Charter of the Tech Bank in order to operationalize it by January next year.

Mr. Chair

10. As a LLDC, Bhutan’s lack of access to sea ports coupled with its mountainous terrain not only limits trade and transit within the country but also with the neighboring countries.

11. Building infrastructure and enhancing connectivity is at the heart of addressing the inherent structural constraints faced by LLDCs. But the nature of infrastructure projects is they are capital intensive and have a longer time frame in terms of planning and execution of the projects.

12. We see development of infrastructure as a key to unlocking the vast potential that LLDCS have in terms of realizing the priorities of the VPOA. Recognizing its importance, development of vital strategic infrastructure is one of the main strategies in our national development objective of inclusive, equitable and sustained economic growth.

13. In closing, as a least and landlocked developed country, Bhutan remains committed to the implementation and realization of the Istanbul Program of Action and the Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. We will continue to count on the support of our development partners in implementing these programmes as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.