Statement made

By

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On Agenda Item 22, Group of Countries in special situation: (a) and (b)
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of G-77 and China, LDCs and LLDCs.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports under this agenda item.

The overarching goal of the Istanbul Program of Action is to overcome structural challenges faced by LDCs to eradicate poverty, enhance productive capacity and achieve structural transformation. As the Report describes, LDCs have made positive progress in implementing the IPOA. However, LDCs still face significant development challenges. Only twelve LDCs reached the growth rate of 7 per cent or more in 2014, in line with IPOA goal. In addition, growth has not been sustained, with sharp decline in some LDCs, due to low agricultural production, adverse weather conditions and unfavourable global economic situations. Moreover, structural challenges continue to hinder the development progress of LDCs.

As the Report shows progress, though not automatic, is possible with enhanced and concerted national and international commitments. As the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Climate Deal have reflected the special development needs and priorities of LDCs, it is critical that their implementation should also address the most urgent needs of LDCs in a coordinated approach. In this regard, it is imperative to take concrete actions in support of LDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

The sharp drop of Official Development Assistance to LDCs in 2014 is a source of concern, though there is a trend to address this decline. While recognizing the importance of domestic resource mobilization, ODA still remains critical to fill the financial gaps LDCs continue to face. It is, therefore, vital that commitments on delivering ODA should be fulfilled. My delegation strongly believes that without adequate and predictable financial resources for adaptation and mitigation, the impact of climate change on LDCs could not be addressed.

In addition to ensuring easy access to climate finance, it is essential to facilitate technology development and transfer as well as capacity building to LDCs.
In this regard, while acknowledging the activities undertaken to establish the Technology Bank of LDCs, it is time to fully operationalize the Bank.

Mr. Chairman,

Land locked developing counties continue to face specific challenges due to geographical reality which inhibits their full participation in the global production networks. As the Reports points out, poor infrastructure, low levels of information and communications technology and limited access to reliable and modern energy are some of the major development challenges of LLDCs. To address these impediments, the Vienna Program of Action should be effectively implemented in a coordinated and coherent approach with all internationally agreed development goals and targets.

As one of the LDCs and LLDCs, Ethiopia has already mainstreamed and continued to implement both the IPOA and VPOA with the vision of achieving a middle income country status by 2025. Our rapid and sustained double-digit economic growth—well above the target of 7 percent of IPOA—has resulted in poverty reduction and a modest transition to structural transformation. We have also been building infrastructures to enhance our productive capacity and global competitiveness. In addition, Ethiopia plays active role in promoting regional integration in our sub-region and beyond.

The recently opened Ethio-Djibouti Train line could be highlighted as one of the hallmarks our regional initiatives, which not only promotes connectivity to increase trade and investment but also to further strengthen regional friendship and partnership. In this regard, my delegation would like to express its profound appreciation and gratitude for our development partners for their continued support.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, like all LDCs and LLDCs, Ethiopia faces multiple challenges to fully realise its development potential. Therefore, it is critical to galvanize domestic and international support towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda to realize the vision of inclusive and sustainable development for all, particularly for the most vulnerable countries.

I thank you