STATEMENT

BY

TURKEY

Agenda Item 22

Groups of Countries in Special Situations

19 October 2016, New York
Mr. Chair,

Development cooperation is an integral part of Turkey’s foreign policy. We attach special importance and priority to the challenges faced by the countries in special situations. Turkey is committed to continue its contributions in support of the sustainable development efforts of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. It is with this understanding that Turkey has successfully hosted the Mid-term Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action in Antalya in May. The Political Declaration adopted in the MTR paved the way for further action in view of graduating at least a half of LDCs by 2020. Turkey’s development cooperation with LDCs focuses on the objectives, principles and priorities of the IPoA, but also goes beyond in many fields. I am pleased to state that our assistance to the LDCs has exceeded 1.5 billion USD over the last five years. Excluding humanitarian aid, approximately 20 per cent of the Turkish ODA was delivered to LDCs. The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) is the principal institution delivering our development assistance. TIKA has taken action in 29 LDCs in line with Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and has implemented projects on social, economic, administrative and physical infrastructure and services.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to make a special emphasis on the Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Information supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs. The IPoA called for the establishment of a Technology Bank. It has been a long-standing priority of LDCs confirmed in Sustainable Development Goal 17. It will help to address technology gap and build robust STI base in LDCs by mobilizing international support. We are at a critical juncture in the establishment of the Technology Bank. The General Assembly should endorse the Charter of the Technology Bank as soon as possible with a view to making it operational before 2017 and achieving Target 17.8. As the host country, Turkey is doing its part in order to get the Technology Bank started its operations. Significant progress has been made in the negotiation of a host-country agreement. Generous and sustained support is essential to ensure the success of the Technology Bank. In this regard, our authorities are considering our financial pledge to the Technology Bank, in particular at its start-up phase. We expect the Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to contribute to the trust fund for effective functioning of the Technology Bank. We also call the Secretariat to take necessary steps to mobilize financial and human resources for the Technology Bank.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I would like to reiterate that Turkey will continue to fulfil its responsibilities with unrelenting energy and faith, and act in solidarity with all vulnerable people around the world. In this context, Turkey’s support to LDCs will continue in an increasing manner.

Thank you.