Closing Statement

Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez
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Regional Meeting of the African Least Developed Countries on Sustainable Energy

5-6 December, 2016

Bank of Tanzania Conference Centre

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Your Excellency, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States – Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya,
Hon. Ambassador, EU Head of Delegation - Mr. Roeland van de Geer,
Hon. Ambassador of Finland to Tanzania - Mr. Pekka Hukka,
Charge D'Affaires, US Embassy - Ms. Virginia Blaser
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals - Prof. Justine Ntalikwa,
Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Energy and Minerals - Dr. Julianna Palangyo,
Honorable Ambassadors and Head of Missions,
Colleagues from UN Agencies,
Representatives from governments’ institutions from Anglophone and Francophone states, including Haiti,
Representatives from the private sector
Representatives from academia and research institutions,
Representatives from the civil society,
Members of the media,
Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. I am truly delighted to have this opportunity to give closing remarks to finalize this two-day “Regional Meeting of the African Least Developed Countries on Sustainable Energy” jointly organized by the United Nations Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Energy and Minerals with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tanzania.

2. UN in Tanzania feel highly honored to host this very important energy meeting here in Tanzania. We are grateful to the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Mission in New York for the support provided to our teams in organizing this event. Without this generous support, this meeting would not have been successful. Thank you very much!

3. The participation of the Minister for Energy and Minerals, Prof Muhongo is particularly highly appreciated. We would like to express our gratitude to you Prof Muhongo for personally working with our teams to ensure that all arrangements are in order. This kind of leadership and commitment shows that in all measures, Tanzania is on track in creating conducive environment for achieving the three SE4ALL targets, at the country level, which are: Achieving universal energy access for all, Improving global rate in energy efficiency, and Increasing share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

4. Thank you Hon. Minister, we appreciate highly, and we will be counting on your full political willingness and support, in moving this energy agenda forward, for the benefit of the Tanzanian people. UN will continue to work with partners with common interest in supporting the government to achieve its energy agenda, in understanding the role of energy in economic and
social transformation especially at this critical time in which Tanzania aspires to achieve a middle-income country as stipulated in the Country’s 5 Years Development Plan (5YDP).

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. I also to thank all our partners, UNOHRLLS through H.E Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, for their decision to host this event here in Tanzania. As the minister Muhongo said yesterday, Tanzania stands to offer a good example for other African countries in terms of its efforts in promoting the SE4ALL initiative through a number of impressive milestones – including efforts made in improving electrification coverage in rural areas. Through Rural Energy Agency rural energy projects, the connection rates for households in rural areas has been hugely subsidized, which enables many such households to access electricity for their livelihood. This is a good step towards realizing SE4ALL targets, also achieving SDG no. 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy.

6. Quoting the Hon. Minister yesterday, “Access to modern and affordable energy is key to achievement of poverty reduction and achieving other SDGs.” African governments have a huge responsibility in their shoulders to facilitate access to sustainable energy for their people as a way to stimulate economic growth. Sustainable energy is central to economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability – in particular mitigating climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen

7. In the past two days, I believe, the very good presentations and discussions made in various sessions have led us to a position where we can be comfortable to say that we all know which direction to follow in terms of achieving SE4ALL targets, at the country level. We have seen some very good progress in some countries; we have also seen challenges and opportunities. Good lessons can be learnt and experience can be shared between and amongst the LDCs. I can say that, this meeting has been an excellent opportunity for the south-south cooperation, and it has offered a chance of networking and partnership creation between the countries, between public and private sector, and with civil societies.

8. I would like to thank the representatives of the all LDCs who managed to join with us in this meeting. I trust that you have found this meeting useful and productive – that experience and knowledge gained will be effectively used at the country level in our bid to achieve the SE4ALL targets, and SDG no 7.

9. I would also like to thank the private sector – we know without their active involvement, achieving SE4ALL will be difficult.

10. Also, I would like to thank the participation from the civil society and the media. Your role is recognized and highly appreciated.

11. Following to this meeting and prior to the Global SE4ALL meeting in New York, Tanzania will again host another very big SE4ALL meeting scheduled to take place in February next year. The meeting will take stock of the outcome of this meeting and to assess the achievement in the implementation of various SE4ALL initiates in Africa. This regional meeting is expected to host
participants from all African states, private sectors, civil societies, and financial sector, among the other participants. UNDP, UN agencies and development partners, will jointly organize this meeting expected to take place at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen

With these few closing remarks, I would like to thank you all, and wish you all the best!

Asante Sana