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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States
(UN-OHRLLS)**

**Statement by
Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-
General and High Representative for the Least Developed
Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island
Developing States**

**at the High Level Side Event on “SDG Implementation,
Financing and Monitoring Sharing Innovations through
South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

**Organized by:
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in partnership with
UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Office on
South-South Cooperation (UN-OSSC)**

**20 September 2017, 10:00 – 11:20 hrs
Conference room # 3
UN Headquarters, New York**

Mr. Moderator
Distinguished fellow panelists
Honourable Ministers
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I wish to thank the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, UNDP and especially also the UN Office on South-South Cooperation for holding this important high-level side event.

Your remarks, Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, are truly inspiring. Let us be inspired by the strong commitment and the progress of your Government to realize the vision of a digital Bangladesh.

The theme of this meeting could not be more timely. The implementation of the SDGs hinges on and requires that governments and institutions are determined and capable to deliver quality public service, service that is people oriented, efficient, effective, transparent and accountable.

There is a famous African proverb and it says: If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together. Yet to realise the SDGs at a moment of complex and rapidly changing challenges we experience, it is on us to find a way to go far and fast TOGETHER. I believe that you in your country have found a way to do this.

Your “Access to information (a2i) initiative introduced by Government with UNDP support, your focus on the empathy approach to ensure you respond to citizen demand in service delivery, your entrepreneurship approach to accelerate faster, more predictable, reliable transparent and accountable public service delivery can teach us a lot on the how to go far and fast TOGETHER.

This also applies to the “SDG tracker”, which will facilitate tracking on the multi-sectoral progress in SDGs on real time basis.

This of course requires strong and visionary leadership and the will to innovate. This will turn challenges into opportunities.

It is rather unlikely that we solve today’s and tomorrow’s challenges with the tools of yesterday.

It is fundamental that we leverage all the opportunities technology offers by building innovative, citizen-responsive service approaches. Innovation is also fundamental to coping with increased demand for public service and capacity constraints of countries.

We at OHRLLS are encouraged to see everywhere a very strong drive to better serve people in more evidence-based, transparent and accountable ways.

Leveraging the modern information and communication technologies and technical know-how are key in that. As the Gates Foundation shows in its initiatives on integrated programs, five dimensions matter: be anchored in the community, address supply chains, leverage ICT, address behavior change and service demand side and build and leverage data systems.

Countries of the South have indeed embarked on a successful innovative public service delivery measures for their citizenry. Some successful Southern innovative solutions are (i) the ASAN service model in Azerbaijan, (ii) E-Government in the Bahamas, (iii) Focus on good governance and basic services for all in Botswana, (iv) Excellence in public service delivery in Colombia, (v) Cost effective and high quality advanced health care in India, (vi) The School for Life in Ghana, to name a few. In all of it, we find a common thread of leveraging ICT including mobile services, broadband internet connectivity and very importantly ICT literacy of citizens.

This does again underline the need for establishing a comprehensive online platform as a gateway for information on existing innovative public service delivery initiatives, mechanisms and programs that have proven successful. It will be equally important to facilitate the dissemination and replication of successful initiatives to other developing countries.

International cooperation that puts at par south-south and triangular cooperation is vitally important in this regard. OHRLLS and I personally, could not more agree with the recent remarks of DSG A Mohammed and the UNDP Administrator A Steiner as well as of my colleague Jorge Chedick at the occasion of the South-South Cooperation Day: South South cooperation by now is at par yet with its distinct features.

OHRLLS in this regard, wishes to do its share in close partnership with all parts of the UN system and member states. Indeed, facilitation of access to knowledge and technologies, and building a related Science Technology and Innovation capacities in LDCs is vitally important to the SDG implementation. This will be the role of the new Technology bank for LDCs.

To get this bank going, we will sign necessary Agreements between the United Nations and the Government of Turkey on the 22nd September 2017 to formally establish and operationalize the Technology Bank for LDCS.

We at OHRLLS look forward to partnering with you all and count on your support to make the Technology Bank an accessible, effective and efficient platform for innovation capacity building and ICT development in LDCs to benefit of public service delivery to people.

I hope for a tool that functions as a collaborative platform for co-creation of solutions. Indeed a tool that helps us meet the very challenge we all face and that is to go far and fast TOGETHER. I thank you all for your kind attention.