



UN-OHRLLS

Remarks

by

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

High Representative

and

Under-Secretary General

for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries

and Small Island Developing States

Closing Remarks

7th LDCs Ministerial Conference

Building global partnerships: Enhancing growth and inclusiveness in LDCs

Vienna, Austria

Vienna International Centre

High-Level Closing Session

24 November 2017

16:00-16:45

H.E. Mr. Joseph Mwanamvekha, Minister of Industry & Trade, Republic of Malawi, Vice Chair of the LDC Global Bureau

H.E. Mr. Tuifaasisina Misa Lisati L. Palemene, Associate Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour, Samoa

My dear friend Mr. LI Yong, Director General, UNIDO

Dear colleagues from the United Nations

Excellencies

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is now incumbent on me to share with you all closing remarks after we have all worked hard and above all together.

Two days of rich exchanges, experience sharing, idea sharing and showing how member States, United Nations and other international organizations, private sector, academia and civil society can come and must come together.

We have shared formal sessions but let us not at all underestimate the value of the numerous meetings in corridors and cafes to share experiences, best practices, make new contacts, and explore partnership possibilities.

This conference showed how by working together, by being inclusive of all stakeholders we can find solutions and solutions that can advance sustainable development in the most vulnerable countries.

I already was convinced of the need for investing much more in partnering arriving at our Conference - I leave our conference with the strong determination to redouble OHRLLS efforts to first and foremost partner up with all of the capacities the UN system has to offer and to partner up with all of you.

I thank you for your active participation, constructive contributions and effort to find solutions. Isn't it all about solutions?

Workable solution is indeed what we owe the 900 million people of the LDCs. The Conference has come up with a set of recommendations. They are timely, bold and absolutely built upon your abundant goodwill and commitment. Let us carry this spirit now forward, let us continue to be partners and get to the work of implementation. Real success will come now from action.

I am convinced that your recommendations will help LDCs to further their strive for sustainable industrialisation.

They will help guide the partner work of UNIDO and OHRLLS and also for all our many other partners in our respective roles to give a helping hand to the LDCS in moving the 2030 Agenda goals to reality for all.

Allow me to leave you with a few takeaways.

- There is a strong commitment from LDCs to accelerate economic and social development, to move out the least developed category, and to sustain social and economic progress after graduation;

- It is recognized that such drive towards sustainable development cannot happen without sustainable and inclusive industrialization and structural transformation. There is a view that sustainable and inclusive industrialisation and structural transformation require strong and effective leadership, ownership and a developmental state;
- It is acknowledged that energy and infrastructure development are enablers of industrialisation and catalysts to the achievement of most of the SDGs. Attention needs therefore to be paid to access of households and industry to affordable and reliable sources of energy and to improved connectivity within countries and between countries;
- It is also recalled that due attention to quality education, skill development, decent jobs, youth employment, women empowerment and resilience-building delivers important socio-economic payoffs;
- It is also recognised that conflicts and instability are major deterrents to investment, both domestic and foreign, and therefore to sustainable and inclusive industrialisation, and development in LDCs;
- There is recognition that the channels of causation from conflicts to development go both directions. The pursuit of peace and stability, development and the protection of human rights should all go hand in hand;
- There is also recognition of the challenges and opportunities associated with artificial intelligence and automation and the need to bring this in the development discourse of LDCs;
- There is an agreement that no amount of effort by LDCs alone will be enough to achieve sustainable and inclusive industrialisation and structural transformation. LDCs need predictable market access, development finance, technical cooperation support, and access to science, innovation and technology. They also need to forge strong and effective partnerships, including with the private sector and through government-led PPPs;
- Finally, there is a consensus that coherence in global governance structures, better coordination among development partners, including the UN development system, and alignment of international support to LDC's priorities are critical in ensuring development effectiveness.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Too often meetings are perceived as or even are somewhat touristic enterprises. You were not tourists of this Conference. You actively and seriously engaged. We are all the better for your having been here but it is also what we owe the countless people no longer looking for words but action. As I said recently, the world's poorest will judge us by action.

It is now our shared responsibility to carry out the recommendations agreed at this Conference. My office stands ready to work with UNIDO and all stakeholders to ensure that the legacy of this Conference is one of action and words kept. No empty promises !

OHRLLS will continue to join hands with UNIDO. Together, we will put our strongest efforts possible toward the achievement of sustainable industrialisation in LDCs.

I will personally remain very invested in mobilising capacity-building support for the LDC's own efforts to more effectively deal with their international partners.

OHRLLS will widely distribute the conference deliberations and ensure that its recommendations find strong resonance in the monitoring and follow up of global commitments towards LDCs. Indeed, we will redouble our global advocacy role in support of the LDC development agenda, and in the provision of backstopping support to the LDC group in global deliberations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once more, I convey my gratitude to UNIDO and the Government of Austria for your warm hospitality and generosity extended to all of us. What a perfectly organised Conference !

So, I also must thank the countless people who worked behind the scenes, from the conference room officers, who have assisted us so ably these two days, to the officers, who have serviced the meeting to the security personnel. I think I also speak for all of you when I express our appreciation to all secretariat staff who have contributed to and facilitated our work by preparing the documentation and providing advice and support to all delegations at various stages of our deliberations.

Our thanks also must go to the interpreters and the technical staff, without whom our work would have been much more difficult, in fact probably impossible.

Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

By no means do we say goodbye today.

Quite the opposite - we have started thinking about the next LDC Ministerial Conference. So we say AU REVOIR, we wish you strength, focus and perseverance in the work ahead and hope that we will see you again for the Eighth LDC Ministerial Conference.

Yes we worked hard, but in fact, the real work only starts now—with renewed determination and vision.

I thank you and wish every one of you a well-deserved restful weekend.