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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**

**Briefing with the Deputy Secretary-General and LDCs
on the reform of the UN development system**

**1 June 2018, 2:30 - 4:30 PM
Riverview room (tbc), Millennium Hotel**

Your Excellency Mr. Masud Bin Momen,
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and Chair of the LDCs Group,
Your Excellency Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria,
Your Excellency Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to our consultative meeting.

Yesterday afternoon, the General Assembly adopted a path-breaking resolution on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system.

As the Secretary-General, H.E. A. Guterres said last September and I quote “above all, let us never forget that we are here to serve. To serve the people. People suffering in poverty or exclusion ... people victimized by conflict...people whose rights and dignity are being denied ...but also people with ideas and dreams who need a helping hand. Reform is for them “.
(end of quote)

This is as I see it the true essence of the resolution.

Work began with the ECOSOC Resolution 2014/14 which convened a transparent and inclusive dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development., It addressed systematically alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, organizational arrangements, capacity and impact and partnership approaches.

The ECOSOC Dialogue ran from 2014-2016.

The dialogue comprised two Phases and included numerous expert group meetings, reports and consultations.

This was followed by two reports of the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in July and December 2017, and the extensive consultations by the Vice President of ECOSOC.

Most recently, the co-facilitators H.E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria and H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark led further consultations which resulted in the draft adopted yesterday.

I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate Ambassador Boukadoum and Ambassador Petersen for this achievement.

I also congratulate Ambassador Mr. Masud Bin Momen and all the LDCs present in the room today for coming to this critical agreement.

This resolution opens the path for the UN system to better meet the needs of the LDCs to achieve the 2030 Agenda, to achieve the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and related sustainable development agreements.

We have convened this meeting to take stock of where we are today.

We have convened this meeting for an initial discussion on how we can move forward with implementation or with what I simply call DOING!

This afternoon we will first hear from H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, followed by the resolution Co-facilitators that is the Permanent Representatives from Algeria and from Denmark.

At 3:30, the Deputy Secretary-General will join us for 45 minutes for an interactive session during which you all will have the opportunity to share your views on what are the priorities for the LDCs in taking this resolution forward into its implementation phase.

Before handing over the floor, allow me to make two additional remarks.

They concern coordination and financial resources.

OHRLLS' role includes the mobilization and coordination of the capacities of all parts of the United Nations system for a straightforward purpose:

facilitate a coordinated implementation, facilitate coherence in the system support to countries for the follow-up and monitoring of the IPoA becoming reality at the country, regional and global levels.

The resident coordinator system has a central role to play in this.

The RC not only coordinates activities of resident agencies from an operational perspective but must also establish linkages with non-resident agencies' capacities and the normative components of the work of the UN system.

The Resident Coordinator has a special role to fulfill regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

The reinvigoration of the RC system is a must for the purpose to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 Agenda and the IPoA given the synergies between these frameworks.

The RC also has an explicit role in supporting the process of smooth transitions (as per A/RES/59/209, paragraph 6, and A/RES/67/221, paragraph 12).

In particular, and if so requested, the Resident Coordinator should act as a facilitator of the consultative process. The RC should as requested assist graduating countries in the preparation of their transition strategies. With 12 LDCs now meeting the graduation thresholds, this places a high importance on this particular form of support.

Second, financial resources. ODA remains the most important source of external financing for many LDCs.

Despite laudable progress from some donors, the ODA target of the IPoA has not been achieved.

This severely limits the ability of LDCs to invest in key critical infrastructure and service provision to enhance productive capacity and reduce poverty.

Efforts to reach the agreed-on ODA target of 0.15-0.2 per cent of GNI of ODA to LDCs ought to accelerate and should become more predictable and aligned with LDC priorities.

When discussing implementation of the resolution we ought to keep these long-standing commitments to the LDCs foremost in mind.

With these brief remarks, I would now like to invite H.E. Amb. Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria, to share some thoughts on the process and to highlight key areas we need to look at in moving forward.