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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

**Statement  
by  
Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu**

**High Representative  
And  
Under-Secretary-General**

**for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries  
and Small Island Developing States**

**at the LDC Ministerial Breakfast**

**on**

**Maximizing Finance for Development in LDCs: The Case for  
Sustainable Energy**

**World Bank Headquarters, Room MC 13-301, Washington, D.C.  
Saturday, 21 April 2018, 8:30-10:00 AM**

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, thank you DSG for being here!

Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships, the World Bank,

Mr. Seydou Bouda, Executive Director, Africa Group II,

Mr. Riccardo Puliti, Senior Director, Energy and Extractives Global Practice, World Bank Group,

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to co-host this get-together.

The topic around which we will exchange is of utmost strategic importance to the sustainable and inclusive development of the LDCs.

First though, thank you so much for the excellent cooperation, a true partnership with the World Bank and One Campaign.

Our collaboration commenced four years ago. The issues at hand do require partnerships and I am proud to say that this meeting is now an established annual partnership event.

In meeting, we pursue two key objectives:

First, we must continue to increase the visibility of issues affecting the most vulnerable group, the LDCs. The group of countries, the people most at risk of being left behind.

In the past four years, discussion topics ranged from financing for development, in preparation for the Addis Ababa Conference, to last year's spotlight on building resilience for sustainable development.

Second, the meeting is a value-adding venue to enhance collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton-Woods Institutions.

Collaboration and partnership are key to the coordination, coherence and cooperation that was envisioned and is so sorely needed for the implementation of the SDGs.

I must thank Mr Mohieldin, Mr. Bouda and ONE Campaign - as well as their teams! - for working hard to advance the issues that affect the LDCs so that we together make sure they are not left behind.

Our theme for this morning addresses a critical SDG - this SDG will be reviewed at the 2018 High Level Political Forum.

My suggestion to you is that we continue to align our exchanges in the years to come with the set of SDGs the global community signed off on to facilitate coherence, coordination and partnership in the implementation and follow-up processes of the SDGs.

Dialogue is at the core of partnering. I cannot emphasize enough how important partnership and thus dialogue is for the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs and the 2030 Agenda.

The case of SDG 7, such a critical and interlinked SDG in the systems construct of the SDGs, deserves our special attention.

As I have said in previous meetings, SDG 7, energy, is a true lifeline for the people of the LDCs.

And it too often indeed is about life - about women dying still in childbirth because hospitals do not have basic lighting, children denied a future because they cannot study at night, precious forestation disappearing because people have no choice but take any wood available to cook.

OHRLLS has and will continue to place high priority on doing what is in our mandate to support countries in accelerating the implementation of SDG 7.

OHRLLS activities aim at generating knowledge, bringing stakeholders together and focus on advocacy such as our publication last year, on *'promoting investment for energy access in LDCs'*.

The report made a clear case that we must accelerate access to clean, affordable and reliable energy in all LDCs.

The report made a clear case for partnerships.

To do so, governments, investors, donors and the private sector need to work together to unlock investment.

Nobody will be able to go this alone.

This will also require accelerated capacity-building investment. Investment to be coupled with simplification, in some cases, of complex and highly onerous finance access procedures without compromising transparency and accountability.

Governments have to be in the driver's seat and need to show strong leadership but also need capacity-building support to develop bankable project pipelines and attendant implementation capacity support.

Just this week, the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group – which includes OHRLLS, and the World Bank – published a Policy Brief on Achieving SDG 7 in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

It is my personal belief that we know the issues, we know what has not worked and we have an idea on what could work. Now, we need TO DO.

Time is as precious as energy - and I fear we have not time to waste as people will not wait much longer for solutions with tangible impact.

So I do hope today's get-together allows for open, frank and concrete discussions to move action forward.

Let us put our minds together and find innovative solutions that will put LDCs on the path to achieving SDG 7.

Thank you.