STATEMENT BY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr Chairperson,

It is a honour for my delegation to takes the floor at this session, and since it’s the first time, please allow me to extend our warmest greetings to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and reassure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation during your mandate.

Angola aligns itself with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China, and Malawi on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his two reports on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, and on the effective implementation and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support.

Mr Chairperson,

The primary goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 is to overcome structural challenges to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category and, the IPOA set an ambitious objective of enabling half of the 48 countries that were, at the time, in the category of least developed country to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.

The Latest developments with respect to graduation from the LDC category shows that, national and global efforts for poverty eradication and sustainable development are encouraging, in consequence of many factors, including the successful implementation of various national and global strategies and partnerships. The Graduation process is now perceived as a landmark in the ongoing development process of the countries concerned.

Furthermore, most graduated countries remain vulnerable, especially to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and other shocks and crises, which poses serious challenges to sustaining their growth and development trajectory. At the recent triennial review held in March 2018, four new LDC’s: — Bhutan, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands have being added to the list of a total 12 Least Developed Countries for meeting the graduation criteria for the first time. Angola commends these four new LDC’s for being
recommended for graduation from the LDC category by the Committee for Development Policy.

Mr Chairperson,

Angola is scheduled for graduation in 2021. A smooth transition strategy is a vital tool for ensuring that graduating countries, like Angola, are eased into a path of sustainable graduation. For Angola, the principle components for a smooth graduation are integrated in the National Long Term Strategy for Development “Angola 2025”. This long-term strategy has also enabled us to achieve specific actions through our 2018-2022 National Development Plan.

We understand that oil has been the main driver for graduation; our Gross National Income (GDP) per capita, in 2017 and 2018, has been well above the income-only graduation threshold.

Still, what is more encouraging is that our human assets index is continuing to increase and our economic vulnerability index continues to decrease. This, is evidence that our human capital development is improving and our economy is becoming less vulnerable.

In this regard, Angola invites the development and trading partners as well as international organizations such as IMF, WTO’s, UNCTAD, and other financing initiatives and mechanism to continue assisting and supporting the graduated countries in implementing graduation and smooth transition strategies, to overcome basic challenges to eradicate poverty and achieve the SDGs.

Thank you.