Statement by

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of Ethiopia to the United Nations,

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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me associate myself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Groups of G77 and China, Africa and LDCs. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

After adopting the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to eradicate all forms of poverty, the least developed countries continue to face multiple challenges that threaten the fulfillment of the promise of leaving no one behind. Poverty, hunger, lack of structural transformation, slow economic growth and weak productive capacity are among the major obstacles that undermine the timely and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, LDCs are the most vulnerable for the adverse impacts of climate change.

Despite the challenges they face, as elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General, LDCs have been making efforts to implement the Istanbul Program of Action with the support of development partners. They have registered slight poverty reduction; access to energy and information communications technology has improved and encouraging economic and social indicators have been observed. Moreover, for the first time in the history of the LDC Group, 12 LDCs have met the graduation criteria. This is indeed a significant development that shows what LDCs could do to meet the targets of the Istanbul Program of Action. With regard to graduation, it is imperative to ensure a smooth transition that considers national development plans and emerging challenges.
The Istanbul Program of Action is a comprehensive development framework to reduce poverty and achieve structural transformation in LDCs. Despite the progress, there are implementation gaps in fulfilling its targets. As only two and half years are left, we strongly believe that both LDCs and their development partners should redouble their coordinated efforts to effectively implement the Program. In this connection, LDCs should provide more emphasis to promote inclusive and sustainable development, structural transformation and economic diversification. Development partners should also honor their official development assistance commitment. Therefore, what is needed is the integrated and accelerated implementation of the Istanbul Program of Action which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, we strongly encourage our development partners to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, particularly those targets specifically related to LDCs.

While doing everything possible to fully implement the IPOA, it is also time to commence to prepare to hold the 5th UN LCDs Conference which would be an opportunity to evaluate our implementation performance as well as to forge a new partnership that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. In this respect, the UN-OHRLLS requires the support of all members to prepare for the next LDC conference.

Mr. Chair,

Land-Locked Developing Countries face special development challenges related to their geographical location. The Vienna Program of Action provides an opportunity to address these predicaments, including the high cost of trade. Despite the progress registered in implementing the Program, LLDCs still continue to depend on a few export items limiting their participation in the global value chain. They also face huge infrastructural gaps affecting their endeavors to promote
regional integration. Hence, in implementing the VPOA, we concur with the report of the Secretary-General that it is critical to address the existing infrastructure gaps that would be crucial for LLDCs to reduce their trade costs and enhance their global competitiveness. The cooperation of transit countries would also remain vital to increase the participation of LLDCs in global trade.

**Mr. Chair,**

As one of the LDCs and LLDCs, Ethiopia has been implementing both the Istanbul and the Vienna Programs of Action by integrating them in its national development plans. Hence, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, Ethiopia is one of the least developed countries that continue to register a GDP growth more than the 7 per cent target of the Istanbul Program of Action. We have been promoting structural transformation and enhancing our productive capacity by highly investing in physical and social infrastructures. We are also working closely with our neighbors to promote regional cooperation and integration. In this regard, recently, we have taken a historical decision that led to a peace agreement with Eritrea that would, among others, not only diversify our sea outlets but also further strengthen regional integration that would benefit the entire region.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chair, by underlining that national efforts to implement both the Istanbul and the Vienna Programs of Action should be supported by revitalized global partnership that takes into consideration the specific challenges of LDCs and LLDCs.

**I thank you.**