Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I wish to join the previous speakers in thanking the UN Secretary-General for his comprehensive and substantive reports under this Agenda Item. I also take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the whole team of OHRLLS for their continued support to the countries in special situations.

Before I highlight a few points in my national capacity, I align my statement with those delivered by Egypt, Malawi and Paraguay on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, LDCs, and LLDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

Three years have passed after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and less than three years are left for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. LDCs are the most vulnerable group of countries. Special needs and challenges of these countries deserve special attention. So, a major drive by all is needed to accelerate the implementation of the IPOA to synergize with the 2030 Agenda.

The overarching goal of the IPOA, to enable half of the LDCs to meet the graduation criteria by 2020, requires renewed commitments and revitalized global efforts. The Committee for Development Policy, this year, recommended some more LDCs for graduation but this is not even the half way to the ambition.

We need to see seriously into what went wrong.

Many of them are concerned about smooth and sustainable graduation as well as about ensuring enhanced, predictable and continued international support. Nepal is concerned, for example, about the sustainability of progress, and therefore the CDP deferred the consideration of graduation of Nepal for the next triennial review to assess again the sustainability of progress and graduation readiness.

These issues should be a part of thoughtful discussion as we look forward to the 5th UN Conference on LDCs.
Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate that the core issue here is not the mere acknowledgment of their specific challenges but the fulfillment of the means of implementation -- its sources, reliability, predictability and sustainability. It is important to redouble efforts including through aligning support to LDCs’ priorities with a focus on building productive capacity.

Technology transfer is critical for LDCs. In this regard, full and effective operationalization of Technology Bank for LDCs with adequate resources and support is key to work in this much needed area.

Mr. Chairman,

Countries which are both LDCs and LLDCs face even more challenges mainly due to high cost of doing business and undertaking development activities. Disasters and climate change have further aggravated their daunting challenges. Remoteness, landlockedness and lack of access to ocean have made the development path of LLDCs extremely difficult.

Effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in synergy with the 2030 Agenda is extremely important. As the Mid-term Review is scheduled for 2019, we look it for an occasion to further accelerating the implementation of VPOA, with new commitments where required.

While the operationalization of the International Think Tank for LLDCs this year is encouraging for us, we call for adequate support for its effective operationalization.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal’s development path is difficult with full of challenges. Low productive capacity, landlocked and remoteness, expensive development infrastructure and poor connectivity have cumulative negative effects on our overall development performance and make our products less competitive, resulting in increasing trade deficit. Therefore, development of connectivity, trade facilitation, transfer of technology and investment promotion continue to be our priority.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I reiterate Nepal’s call for meeting commitments, forging partnerships, increasing cooperation and redoubling our efforts to support the neediest countries. Nepal is ready to working together with fellow member states and all stakeholders to this end.

I thank you.