STATEMENT

BY

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ON

AGENDA ITEM 23
GROUPS OF COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE

DURING THE

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York
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Chairperson,

I wish to align this statement with those delivered by the representatives of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Malawi on behalf of the LeastDeveloping Countries and Paraguay on behalf of the group of Land Locked Developing Countries.

I wish to thank the Secretary General for the informative reports. LDCs have been implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action since 2010, which is soon coming to an end in 2020. Since its adoption, however, not much progress has been made to significantly reduce poverty and underdevelopment in LDCs and some of the LLDCs.

There is need to remain steadfast and optimize the remaining two years of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs. We need to gain even greater momentum and make strides towards addressing the many barriers to development without leaving anyone behind.

There are specific areas of focus that could create effective and positive impact. Investment and technology innovation sharing and transfer, which is essential for improved production capacities, is critical in this regard. Further, particular attention should be given to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and focus on the fundamentals of meaningful and sustainable development. These include among others infrastructure development, promotion of value addition and undertaking institutional, policy as well as legal reforms to create conducive business environments.

Chairperson,

In responding to the calls for development, Zambia is making progress in infrastructure development, by investing significantly in roads, rail and air transportation. We have also invested in energy, water and sanitation and ICT infrastructure. In strengthening regional cooperation in the transport sector for instance, we are using Zambia’s unique geographic position with the eight neighbouring countries surrounding us, to make our country a natural transport hub and transit point within the sub-region and beyond. The Policy framework is in place to ensure that Zambia becomes the preferred transit point in the region in line with
the country's long term Vision 2030. Some of the projects that we have undertaken include: implementation of the Link Zambia 8000 Road Project aimed at connecting all districts by road and onwards to the neighbouring countries. This project has significantly transformed the nation into a land-linked country with a good road network to all our eight neighbouring countries. It is worth noting that some of the roads within the Link Zambia 8000 project are also important elements in regional transport corridors.

Chairperson,

In collaboration with Transit Countries and other development entities, Zambia has partnered to develop transport corridors such as the Nacala Road Corridor, and Dar-es-salaam Road Corridor linking the country to the Indian Ocean; the Lobito Corridor and the Walvis Bay Corridor to the Atlantic Ocean.

Further, the policy, legal and institutional reforms being undertaken are facilitating universal access to ICT and promoting the use of ICT in business such as e-Commerce. Through the Smart Zambia initiative, the Government is land-linking the country by facilitating ICT development and skills up-scaling for public service workers and the private sector.

Finally chairperson,

With the projection of 35 percent increase in LDCs' population by 2030, the share of savings is likely to dwindle with poverty remaining widespread. Zambia therefore, wishes to encourage all LDCs to consider the prospects of putting in place measures that will address this challenge while accelerating the harnessing of the demographic dividend. Harnessing of the demographic dividend will enable our economies benefit from the positive shift in the population structure, with more people in the working bracket compared to the numbers in the dependent bracket. This is one such effort that calls for investment. We request the UN system and the international community to promote this just call through provision of resources both technical and financial.

I thank you chairperson.