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**Presentation to ECOSOC of the 2010 Report of the
Committee for Development Policy (CDP) by
Professor Adil Najam
New York, 21 July 2010**

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the great honour of submitting to you the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2010/33), held in New York from 22 to 26 March this year.

This year the report addresses four major themes:

- The impact of global crises on gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- The support by the United Nations system for small island developing States (SIDS);
- Coherence on the climate change agenda in relation to its financial architecture and to other development agenda;
- The international support measures available for least development countries.

The report also includes the monitoring of the development progress of Maldives and Samoa—two countries earmarked for graduation—as well as Equatorial Guinea—whose graduation date will be known once the General Assembly pronounces itself on this matter.

The CDP chair, Professor Frances Stewart, delivered a key note address at the Annual Ministerial Review which this year focused on gender equality and empowerment of women. I will just stress three main points here:

First, crises—man-made or otherwise—are regressive and tend to accentuate existing inequalities. They affect both men and women, but in different ways. Women—because of their weak positioning in economic, legal, and socio-cultural spheres—are often less resilient to shocks.

Second, many Governments responded quickly to the financial and economic crisis. But policy approaches showed little, if not none, gender sensitivity.

Third, and this is the last point I will make on this topic, Governments should take the ongoing crisis as an occasion to mainstream gender objectives in policy making.

Otherwise, the achievements made since Beijing will be compromised. Greater focus on employment generation for women, incentives to keep girls in school, and on ensuring access to health services is needed. The recognition of women as producers and expanding their access to agricultural land and other assets should not be ignored either.

Mr. President,

At the request of the Council, the Committee considered support extended by the UN System to the small island developing States (SIDS). We hope that our findings will assist you in strengthening the Mauritius Strategy on the occasion of the high level event planned for this coming September.

The Committee is pleased to note that on the whole the SIDS have consistently maintained good levels of social and economic outcomes which are above the average of developing countries. It is also true that a few SIDS lag behind and are included in the list of LDCs

There is a great deal of support by the UN system to the SIDS. Yet, the information available on such support is too fragmented, incomplete and not sufficiently results-oriented. In the Committee's view, there may be two main reasons for this:

First, the Mauritius Strategy itself—the framework for international cooperation on SIDS—ends to be too general in scope. It does not pay sufficient attention to the economic implications of small size, insularity, specific constraints and vulnerabilities these countries face. Also, the strategy contains numerous recommendations, but lacks concrete targets or milestones. This makes it difficult to monitor implementation and support in a meaningful way.

Second, the CDP noted the limited capacity of the monitoring and advocacy structures. It suggests that the mandates and operational functioning of these entities be reviewed and strengthened. Adequate resources need to be provided to allow for more effective monitoring and pro-active advocacy.

Mr. President,

The Committee examined issues of policy coherence for climate change and its financing mechanisms. Time is running short and there will be severe implications for mitigation and adaptation worldwide and devastating effects for the most vulnerable countries if we do not move quickly. The longer we wait the greater the needs will be.

As we have indicated in previous reports, addressing the climate change challenge calls for an energy transition and for climate-resilient development paths to improve the standards of living in developing countries. This requires the transfer of financial and technological resources. Currently, the level of funding for mitigation and adaptation is vastly insufficient. Significant scaling up is required. While some financing is trickling in, these mechanisms are set in parallel to the UNFCCC. This risks drawing resources

from what is needed to meet UNFCCC obligations. Moreover, the mushrooming of such initiatives outside the COP's authority can result in coordination and coherence costs and lack of transparency.

For these reasons, the CDP report argues that the financial architecture for climate change should be governed by the UNFCCC and designed in line with the principle that climate action is to facilitate economic development in a sustainable and equitable way. The report also recommends that appropriate vulnerability indices be developed to assist in prioritizing action and in allocating adaptation funding in an equitable and transparent fashion.

Mr. President,

The development of LDCs has been a main concern of the CDP deliberations since its inception. As a contribution to the on going preparations of the IV UN Conference on LDCs, which will take place in Turkey next year, the CDP assessed the effectiveness of the international support measures made available under the Programmes of Action for the LDCs and put forward a few recommendations for your consideration.

Two main categories of international support measures were identified: those related to international trade and official development assistance. Overall, their impact on LDCs development seems to be modest.

The Committee identified three main reasons for these limited results:

First, The LDCs Programmes of Action offer too many goals but too few instruments to achieve such goals.

Second, inadequate level of external support, misguided domestic policies and poor governance made it difficult to implement national strategies.

Third, international support measures are necessary but not sufficient to address the structural handicaps the LDCs face. They need to be complemented by policy measures both at the national and international level.

That is not to say that the existing measures should be dropped, rather the way they are delivered needs to be significantly enhanced. For instance, duty-free, quota-free market access should be granted in parallel with standardized and simplified rules of origin. Existing compensatory financing mechanisms need to be complemented with subsidized insurance schemes. ODA flows need to be increased-- in line with the 0.15 per cent target-- and rebalanced with additional resources allocated to support economic diversification.

But this will not sufficient. Additional measures are necessary to support LDCs to implement their national strategies. For instance, there is need to articulate tailor-made national and international responses for each LDC to make support measures more

effective and better targeted to countries' needs. This may require identifying different clusters of LDCs facing similar challenges (low land productivity, lack of economic diversification, existing form conflicts etc) and develop specific measures to support them in their efforts to overcome such challenges.

Moreover, the new programme of action should also include support measure to assist the LDCs in addressing climate change and its impact on LDCs in terms of food security, water stress, disease, disaster risk, ecological degradation and migration.

Finally, the report argues for greater coherence between the international strategy for LDCs and other existing development strategies, including those initiated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. A clearer link also needs to be established between the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and the overall trust and measures that will be decided at the next LDC conference.

This brings me to the last topic I will address today: the monitoring of the development progress of Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa. The report notes that the current economic crisis does not seem to have derailed Equatorial Guinea and Maldives from the path of their smooth transition towards non-LDC status. Samoa, on the other hand, has suffered human and economic losses from the tsunami that hit the country in September 2009. Its near term economic outlook continues to be subject to uncertainty and adequate international support is needed.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

I look forward to hearing your reaction to the main findings and recommendation of the Report. On behalf of my colleagues in the Committee, I would like to express our hope that the analysis contained in our report will enrich your deliberations and assist you to come up with innovative and practical solutions to the issues at hand.

Thank you.