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de la République du Bénin  
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*Permanent Mission of  
the Republic of Benin  
to the United Nations*

**SIXTY NINETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**SUBSTANTIVE INFORMAL SESSION  
ON THE GLOBAL CONTEXT, FINANCING THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
INCLUDING POVERTY ERADICATION AND INEQUALITIES  
FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT  
BY**

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CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

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Distinguished Co-Chairs  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of LDCs. The Group of LDCs would like to commend the distinguished Co-Chairs for holding this first substantive session. The Group commends the distinguished keynote speakers and panelists for their insightful presentations this afternoon.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

The third UN Conference on financing for development is taking place at a critical time. The global development landscape has significantly changed since the Millennium Declaration. Many countries could meaningfully reap the benefits of globalization with remarkable progress in science, technology, innovation; trade and investment; capital accumulation and human resource development. These countries are moving from the periphery to the center of the development architecture.

Meanwhile, a number of other countries, namely LDCs, have been further marginalized who are entangled in a low equilibrium trap. This has further widened the inequality among LDCs and the rest of the world. According to some recent estimate, around 85 per cent of global inequality is explained by differences in the mean incomes of countries, and only 15 per cent is due to variations within countries.

The threat of climate change to global prosperity and sustainability is a reality. Yet, action on this front has been slow. The global financial crisis has shaken our world. Demographic shifts, a growing global middle class, increasing urbanization and new technologies are resulting in opportunities as well as challenges. Digital divide is now more stretched than before. Huge unemployment, especially among youth, various kinds of communicable and non-communicable diseases have emerged challenging our societies. The massive outbreak of Ebola virus crisis demonstrates how vulnerable we are to emerging challenges, crises and shocks.

We are meeting against the backdrop of significantly reduced growth performance of LDCs, due to the effects of the global economic crisis, and a major decline in ODA. LDCs have achieved 4.3 per cent economic growth in 2012 and 5.6 per cent in 2013. This is far below the average economic growth of 7 per cent of the past decade. Despite significant efforts, LDCs could not reach the growth level of the pre-crisis era. Poverty continued to be pervasive, with half of people in LDCs living on less than \$1.25 a day.

While many of the MDGs have been achieved globally, LDCs could only make limited progress towards achieving some of the MDGs due to limited productive capacity, growing debt burden,

unfavorable market access conditions, unmet official development assistance (ODA) commitments and inadequate foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, among others.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We are highly encouraged that there has been broader agreement on embedding the three dimensions of sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda in a balanced manner. The existing documents and the ongoing discussions are indicative of the possible shape of a post-2015 development agenda. It is quite clear that this will be significantly wider and broader than the MDGs. Accordingly; post-2015 development agenda will require huge additional public and private financing. Based on the priority areas of the IPoA and the outcome of the OWG-SDGs, there are at least six distinct areas where LDCs would require substantial level of development assistance and other financial flows, which are as follows:

First: Productive capacity building, including infrastructure, energy, industrialization and services sector;

Second: Agriculture and food security;

Third: social protection, including protection against hunger, malnutrition and epidemics;

Fourth: Exploitation of natural resources;

Fifth: building resilience against environment and climate-related shocks and natural disasters, and

Finally: institution building, including regulatory and human resources for resource mobilization, allocation and utilization;

Additionally, LDCs would also need coordinated support to graduation and meeting financing gaps with a view to reaching the graduation threshold.

The financing for development agenda should center on the above key priority areas. Since the area of coverage is much broader and wider than the MDGs, Monterrey and Doha outcome can only serve as a basis for developing a new generation of financing agenda with a highly ambitious scope, enhanced commitment, new initiatives and mechanisms and a broad-based multi-stakeholder approach with quantifiable and time-bound targets under a robust mutual accountability framework.

The new financing for development agenda should embody some scientifically researched and evidence-based criteria in giving priority to resource allocation to various groups of countries. Such possible criteria could include the following:

First: the magnitude of countries structural vulnerability and constraints,

Second: Though absolute number is important, the primary consideration should be the percentage figure, which is statistically more significant;

Third: Countries economic and financial capacity to deal with the challenges by their own resources;

Fourth: The trends in the reduction of poverty and other goals and targets over the years; and

Finally: countries initial endowments and characteristics in terms of resources, institutions and pervasive challenges.

In these areas, LDCs are, no doubt, at the highest of the ladder in terms of challenges and at the bottom of it in terms of the capacity. Therefore, LDCs would need additional, preferential, concessional and most favorable treatment for their access to markets, finance, technologies, know-how and other resources and differential and flexible treatment in undertaking international commitments and obligations which is called "Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs (DPTL)". This principle should be applied in the outcome of the Third UN Conference on FFD as well as in the post-2015 development agenda.

In the upcoming sessions, the Group of LDCs would present its concrete proposals in each of the priority areas of FFD. They would include, among others, 50% share of ODA and aid for trade, full and meaningful DFQF market access, full debt cancellation, international investment support center and technology bank dedicated to LDCs, productive use of remittances, international support for domestic capital market development with a view to mobilizing international private finance flows.

These measures, if adequately applied would highly contribute to capacity and institution building support and to establishing safety net mechanisms to minimize risk arising from private debt, alongside with specific measures to protect LDCs from external financial and other shocks, which we call "crisis mitigation and resilience building fund".

We will also propose measures for enhancing LDCs voice and participation in global rule making and norm setting processes in a fair and equitable manner.

In conclusion, we look forward to meaningful discussions this week and a week in December to give us a solid basis for drafting the new financing for development agenda.

I thank you all for your kind attention.