

## Rabat Declaration

We the Ministers of the Least Developed Countries and the Chairman of the G77 and China;

Having met in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, from 24-26 of June 2003;

Recalling the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits and their follow-up processes;

Recalling the Millennium Declaration and in particular the Millennium Development Goals aimed at eradicating extreme poverty;

Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as a roadmap for the sustainable development of the LDCs;

Recalling the commitment made by the International community at the Doha Ministerial Conference of WTO to address the marginalization of LDCs in international trade and to assist them fully integrate into the multilateral trading system;

Recalling also the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, recalling further Dhaka Declaration of the Second LDCs Trade Ministers Meeting;

Deeply concerned over the weak technical and productive capacities of LDCs, their growing marginalization in the field of information technologies, vulnerability to natural disasters, widespread disease, famines and conflicts that exacerbate their deteriorating socio-economic conditions;

Deeply concerned also over the continuously declining rate of economic growth of LDCs, in spite of the broad structural and economic reform measures undertaken by them, the shrinking aid levels and FDI, the heavy debt burden, lack of market access, supply side constraints and decline in commodity prices which continue to hinder the growth of LDCs;

- 1- Welcome the unprecedented initiative of the joint LDCs ministerial meeting with the Chairman of the G77 and China convened to path

- the way for better strategies to address the concerns of LDCs in all major economic and development issues.
- 2- welcome the enhancement of coordination mechanisms among the LDCs, in particular the establishment of the LDCs Coordination Bureau Chaired by Benin.
  - 3- recognize that the concerns of the LDCs which represent the weakest segment of the international community need to be specifically addressed in all economic and development issues;
  - 4- Reaffirm the important role of the G77 as negotiating power of developing countries.
  - 5- Express satisfaction and sincere appreciation for the traditional support of the G77 and China for the concerns of the LDCs in all economic and development issues, and welcome in this regard the continued close consultation and collaboration with the LDCs Coordination Bureau.
  - 6- Stress the central role of ECOSOC in the coordination of actions in the United Nations system in support of the implementation of the LDC-III. POA. In this regard recommend that the United Nations support the participation of LDCs Focal Points in the annual substantive sessions of the ECOSOC which regularly review the implementation of BPOA.
  - 7- Welcome the efforts of OHRLLS in carrying out its mandate for adequate coordination, follow-up and mobilization of resources for an effective and timely implementation of the PoA.
  - 8- Stress the need for effective implementation of BPOA and call on all development partners, including multilateral financial organizations to honour their commitments therein.
  - 9- Call on the forthcoming WTO ministerial Conference to be held in Cancun, Mexico, to adopt future measures to efficiently address the marginalization of LDCs in international trade and to assist them fully integrate into the multilateral trading system.
  - 10- Welcome the initiatives of the United Nations and G8 to bridge the digital divide that has further marginalized the LDCs, particularly in the area of information technology and call on the international community to address the special needs of the LDCs therein. In this regard, the forthcoming World Summit on Information Society should adopt a concrete plan of action for bridging the digital divide in the LDCs.
  - 11- Welcome the continued initiatives of the Kingdom of Morocco in favour of LDCs, in particular its announcement of the cancellation of African LDCs debt and granting duty-free access to their exports.

12- **express sincere appreciation and gratitude to the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the success of the first LDCs Ministerial and G77 Chairman meeting.**

**Rabat, June 25, 2003**