

**Workshop for the National Focal points on the Implementation of the Brussels
Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries**

17–21 May 2004, New York, United Nations Headquarters

Address by Mr. Oussou Edouard Aho-Glele, Minister Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Benin to the UN, Chairman of the LDC Group Coordination Bureau

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, conference participants,

The initiative to organize a workshop for the LDC National Focal Points has originated from the LDC Group here, in New York. This initiative stems from our desire to ensure transparency in the follow up to, and implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for Decade 2001-2010.

This programme, in the spirit of partnership has committed us, as well as our development partners, to specific and concrete undertakings. I would like to point out that both during the preparatory meeting and the Third UN Conference on LDCs we emphasized, on many occasions, the need to focus on outcomes that are tangible, quantifiable and measurable in evaluating the implementation of the POA. It is essential that the LDCs themselves will monitor the results of implementation of the Programme. And it is in this context that the LDC Group wished instead of laborious reports to have reports that provide with the matrixes of the results. This would enable us to determine what are the key trusts by which the deliberations should be guided.

This workshop seeks to enable us to make better use of the content of our Programme in order to have clear vision of who does what. Then the workshop should allow us to design a network of relations and interactions amongst ourselves and with our partners in order to ensure efficient and transparent implementation of the Programme. It will also allow us to evaluate without complacency the results of our Acton Programme.

This being said, on behalf of our Group I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all partners, who through their financial support have made it possible to hold this workshop. In particular, I would like to thank UNDP, UNCTAD and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs. We also appreciate the efforts of other partners including the NGOs, which to various extent; have given their support to the organization of this workshop. This workshop is the result of the first initiative which the LDC Group took together with the Office of the High Representative and with the support and participation of some of other development partners. Other initiatives of this kind will follow, and on this occasion we would encourage and invite our partners to support us in our initiatives.

And thereupon, I would like to wish that we have a successful follow-up to the workshop. Thank you very much.