

**PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EFFECTIVE
MONITORING MECHANISMS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS
LDC IV HEARING**

NEW YORK, 1ST APRIL, 2011

AMADOU S.O. TAAL

MADAM CHAIR,

DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME FIRST AND FOREMOST THANK THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ORGANISING THIS IMPORTANT HEARING ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS A PRELUDE TO THE LDC IV SUMMIT WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. LET ME ALSO EXPRESS OUR DELIGHT IN BEING PART OF THIS PROCESS, AS MEMBERS OF LDC WATCH.

MADAM CHAIR, AS WE HAVE JUST COME TO THE END OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRUSSELS PROGRAM OF ACTIONS THAT WAS DEVELOPED TO ASSIST LDCS TO IMPROVE THEIR SITUATION IN SEVEN KEY AREAS, WE NOTE WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THAT LDC WATCH IN COLLABORATION WITH UN-OHRLLS, UNECA AND THE UNDP HAVE UNDERTAKEN A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE BRUSSELS PROGRAM OF ACTIONS AND THE MDGS. DURING THAT REVIEW, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SOME SUCCESSES AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FACING LDCS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LDCS INCLUDE:

- REGISTERING AN ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE OF 7 PER CENT PER ANNUM BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS.
- PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION.
- PROGRESS IN REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY RATES
- PROGRESS MADE IN REDUCING HIV/AIDS INFECTIONS.

DESPITE LIMITED SUCCESSES, NUMEROUS DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES STILL REQUIRE AN URGENT ATTENTION IN MOST LDCS. THESE INCLUDE:

- GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- MOVING TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY.
- MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

- REDUCING EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER.
- MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

MADAM CHAIR,

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IN THIS IMPORTANT TASK OF IMPLEMENTING THE BRUSSELS PROGRAM OF ACTIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AS DEMONSTRATED IN THEIR STRIFE TO HOLD THEIR GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE TO THEIR PEOPLE. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EFFECTIVE MONITORING MECHANISMS FOR DEVELOPMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY'S CAPACITY MUST BE DEVELOPED BOTH AT THE NATIONAL AND GRASSROOTS LEVELS. ON THE ISSUE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, MOST LDCS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND IMPROVE GOVERNANCE, BUT THE CAPACITY OF CSOS TO MONITOR THESE MEASURES IS STILL LIMITED. IN FACT, THERE IS NEED TO GO BEYOND MONITORING; ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASK WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTAIN FAILURES AND HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE. IN THIS REGARD, THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISMS MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND CSOS.

IN CONCLUSION, MADAM CHAIR, MAY I EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY IN MONITORING NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND THOSE INITIATED BY THE WORLD BANK, THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND THE IMF WHO HAVE DIRECT INFLUENCE OVER POVERTY REDUCTIONS PROGRAMS.

SECONDLY, LDC GOVERNMENTS MUST ADOPT PRO-POOR POLICIES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS SO THAT DEVELOPMENT AID CAN BE MADE EFFECTIVE.

FINALLY, BOTH LDCS AND MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS MUST DEVELOP A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM THAT IS PEOPLE-ORIENTED RATHER THAN PROFIT-ORIENTED. WE WANT TO ESTABLISH A WORLD WITHOUT LDCS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.