

Oral statement in connection with draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53,
entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on
the Least Developed Countries"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 15, 20, 21 and 28 of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53, the General Assembly would:

(a) Also recall the decision, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, to adopt, expand and implement investment promotion regimes, as appropriate, for least developed countries, and in this regard request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, for its consideration at its sixty-ninth session, a report focusing on national policies and regulatory frameworks for stimulating foreign direct investment in least developed countries and outlining the options and modalities of investment promotion regimes for least developed countries;

(b) Reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

(c) Also reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

(d) Underline that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and request the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

3. The request for documentation contained in operative paragraph 15 will constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management for one document of 8,500 words in all six languages. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$50,900 for documentations services in 2014.

4. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 20, 21 and 28, the new and expanded mandates would require the strengthening the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The additional mandates

include: (a) establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives; (b) implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action as a standing item on the agenda of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB); (c) integrating the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for the least developed countries led by the Office within the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) framework; (d) supporting the development of national policies and regulatory frameworks for stimulating foreign direct investment in the least developed countries and options and modalities of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries; (e) integrating and implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country level; (f) integrating the Rio+20 outcome in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action; (g) ensuring particular attention to the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes; (h) reflecting needs and priorities of the least developed countries in post-2015 development agenda; (i) strengthening coordination as well as monitoring and following up at the regional and sub-regional levels; and (j) building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects.

5. Accordingly, the strengthening of the Office would require a total of 11 new posts (two Senior Economic Affairs Officers (P-5), one Senior Programme Officer (P-5), two Programme Officers (P-4), one Economic Affairs Officer (P-4), one Programme Officer (P-3), one Economic Affairs Officer (P-3), one Advocacy and Outreach Officer (P-3), one Staff Assistant (GS-OL) and one Research Assistant (GS-OL)) under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. These new posts would be utilized to respond to expanded mandates arising from the Istanbul Programme of Action, follow-up and implement the Rio+20 outcome, contribute to the process of post-2015 development agenda, facilitate the graduation and smooth transition of the least developed countries, expand and leverage partnerships and crosscutting issues such as the special challenges confronted by geographically disadvantaged least developed countries which are landlocked and small islands. The cost of establishing the eleven new posts would amount to \$3,424,600 for the biennium 2014-2015. In addition to the posts resources, non-post resources in the amount of \$871,700 would be required for office accommodation, commercial communications, supplies, furniture and equipment related to the establishment of the new posts for the biennium 2014-2015.

6. In conclusion, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53, the requirements of \$4,347,200, including (i) \$50,900 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; (ii) \$3,512,600 under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and (iii) \$783,700 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.