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**PREPARATORY PROCESS
FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
SUBSTANTIVE INFORMAL SESSION
ON**

“Closing data gaps and strengthening statistical capabilities”

**STATEMENT
BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

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Mr. Co-Chairs
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of LDCs. The Group aligns itself with the statement of Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their follow-up and monitoring processes have stimulated greater focus on the reliable data and statistics. The global efforts, thus far, have succeeded in generating quantifiable data and statistics on a wide range of areas and for a large number of countries. This helps us know the development status of the world better than before. However, despite significant progress, huge data and statistical gaps remain in a number of areas and for a large number of countries. LDCs are often at the forefront in terms of lack of modern and updated data and statistics.

An ambitious post-2015 development agenda would require further significant increase in the reliable, reconcilable, real-time data and information with a view to setting nationally appropriate targets and to plan, monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the IPoA. A huge increase in the capacity of many governments, institutions and individuals will be needed to deliver and use this data.

Strong, real-time and comparable data would be vitally important for follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda including the global partnerships for development. The briefing note of the secretariat underlines that the current information flows on finance, reporting standards and monitoring mechanisms are overlapping, dispersed, contradicting, incomplete in coverage and often inaccessible to development actors. This underlines the need for making data available, building public trust in the data, and expanding people's ability to use it, so that their needs are at the heart of these processes.

In a people centered development strategy the first and most important data is about the people their location and their needs. To be able to make sensible decision concerning them we need to rely on correct data. One of the best way to capture the data is the census. **Efforts in the field of assessing and understanding demographic trends are of great importance to be able to reach the goal of leaving no one behind.**

The nature and quality of the Population Census of countries depends on their level of sophistication to provide ground to achieve a better balance between politically-informed decision-making and decision-making based on quality data and information our country will make a developmental leap forward.

For LDCs, promoting a culture of information, research and empirical evidence for the purposes of planning and decision-making is perhaps one of the most important actions that we can take to achieve the potential of our societies and of their people. In this spirit, the national research institutions and administrations devoted to data collection and analysis have a crucial role to play. Their endeavors have to be better integrated to the endeavors at global level. Researcher conducting studies at the level of multilateral agencies should not rely on old data but should make more efforts to access up to date data to be able to present an accurate picture of the situations they want to study.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

For LDCs, a number of factors constrain the availability of quality data and statistics. These factors include, among others, lack of adequate institutional and human capacities, poor data collection and processing infrastructure, absence of modern technologies and scarcity of financial and technical capacities. Therefore, this group of countries would need strong support to build their national statistical capacity. UN Regional commissions can play a key role in this regard.

The Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development in its report has proposed that the UN establish a process whereby key stakeholders create a "Global Consensus on Data", to adopt principles concerning legal, technical, privacy, geospatial and statistical standards which, among other things, will facilitate openness and information exchange.

The Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015 development agenda recommended establishing a Global Partnership on Development Data that brings together diverse but interested stakeholders – government statistical offices, international organizations, CSOs, foundations and the private sector. This partnership would, as a first step, develop a global strategy to fill critical gaps, expand data accessibility, and galvanize international efforts to ensure a baseline for post-2015 targets is in place by January 2016.

The Group of LDCs would like to underscore that UN statistics can play a major role by building its own statistical database in a comprehensive and user-friendly manner capturing the whole set of post-2015 development indicators and other internationally agreed goals and targets. The UN system can play a coordinating role in bringing together all relevant international entities and other stakeholders and can capitalize on their existing tools, mechanisms and expertise and develop a "comprehensive global data bank" capturing all available areas of data and statistics. The data bank should be user-friendly, open and flexible so that data could be easily accessible and could be disintegrated for various groups of countries and in specific areas of gender, geography, income, disability, and other categories.

The UN system needs to help strengthening national statistical capacities of LDCs to develop their national databases that contain national and international data on post-2015 development agenda with related metadata that are available to all interested users. This would help getting real time primary data from the country level and ensure compliance with international standards, uniform methodologies in data collection, processing and dissemination to facilitate reconcilability. The national capacity building efforts should begin now so that a mechanism could be put in place in 2015 without any lag time. The UN country teams can play a key role in this respect.

I thank you all for your kind attention.