

LDC Watch Statement at the Meeting between CSOs and the Co-Chairs

New York City, July 28, 2021 (Virtual Form)

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LDC Watch Chair

Respected Co-Chairs, Head of UN-OHRLS, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of LDC Watch and the International Working Group (IWG), I sincerely thank the Co-Chairs for this opportunity to share our views on the Zero Draft Outcome Document.

We welcome the work done by the LDC Group. However, we notice that there is no mention of LDCs' **Right to Development**, as a way of stressing more forcefully their sovereignty over their development policies. We think that this mention is important since this year marks the 35th anniversary of the landmark UN Declaration **on the Right to Development**, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1986.

On the different themes, the document makes a fairly good diagnosis and reiterates some key demands from LDCs on the issues of debt, resource mobilization, trade, climate change, global governance, international cooperation. We welcome the principled positions on these issues.

On governance, we strongly support the legitimate demand for a fair representation of LDCs and the Global South in general, in the global decision-making system.

In this regard, we reiterate the call made by CSOs for a radical change in the selection of the IMF and World Bank leadership, through an open, competitive and democratic process.

Resource mobilization has been one of the recurrent challenges facing LDCs. We support the call made by the document to enhance domestic resource mobilization and fight illicit financial flows through a number of policy changes, at the national and international levels.

Structural transformation, economic diversification is the key to LDCs' economic and social progress. However, the success of such policies is predicated on real policy ownership and a break with neoliberal policies, responsible for more inequalities, rising poverty, wealth concentration and illicit financial flows.

In addition, LDCs must retain the right to take all necessary measures against policies that could be harmful to their development. These include capital controls, domestic market protection, regulations to protect the environment, among others.

Respected Co-Chairs, in closing, we hope that the final outcome document will recognize the important role of CSOs in the implementation of the Doha Program of Action.

Thank you!

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