**National Statement**

* Thank you Chair.
* Australia is proud to be a longstanding friend of the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
* We have heard today about the multiple and compounding crises we are facing—from climate change to rising inequality.
* And we have heard that these challenges are being felt particularly acutely by countries in special situations: Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and as we’re discussing here today, LDCs.
* In these challenging times, we reiterate our universal agreement that the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are our best chance to collectively end poverty and hunger everywhere; eliminate inequalities; and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies for all.
  + And that the SDGs remain as ambitious, relevant, and representative of the collective interests of all 193 Member States as they were when we agreed them in 2015.
* But we also know, as we have heard today, that implementation has not been as full or fast as we need.
  + And we recognise that, as the Doha Programme of Action so clearly articulates, LDCs need dedicated action to address their unique challenges.
* We all have a role to play in accelerating progress.
* Australia is playing our part.
* Australia’s international development program ($4.96 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2024-2025) aims to support partners to meet their own development needs in line with the SDGs.
* Our development program is targeted to meeting the needs of LDCs in our region, as well as recently graduated LDCs, SIDS and middle income countries facing particular development challenges.
* It places gender equality and climate action at its heart, and investing more in locally led solutions, creating local jobs and economic opportunities and building genuine, respectful partnerships.
* We are also promoting innovative development finance solutions to help accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda
  + Including by leveraging our funds to crowd-in private finance.
* We’re supporting global efforts to improve access to development finance, including international financial architecture (IFA) reform to improve responsiveness, boost transparency and accountability, and build sustainability and resilience.
* As we prepare for the forthcoming Fourth UN High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (FfD4) in 2025, we need to prioritise both the quantum and quality of development financing
  + Development effectiveness and good governance is critical to maximise the value of every dollar.
* This will be crucial to supporting LDCs on a sustainable route to graduation, and ensuring they do not face any abrupt reversal of their development gains.
* Australia stands ready to work with all Member States on this goal.