LDC Annual Ministerial meeting

**STATEMENT OF BELGIUM**

*ECOSOC chamber, 26 September 2024*

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

This year's ministerial meeting takes place in a changed context. We have just adopted a landmark document to make the multilateral system more inclusive and effective, and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is essential that this renewed commitment addresses, first and foremost, the needs and challenges of countries in special situations, such as LDCs.

As co-chairs of the Group of Friends of LDCs, we call on the international community to extend this new momentum to the Doha Programme of Action. Belgium will play its part by working with OHRLLS, UN DESA, the entities of the UN Development System and the UN LDC Technology Bank to support capacity building, attract investment and ensure that graduating countries embark on a sustainable path.

In the negotiations leading up to the Pact for the Future, Belgium has always advocated a constructive approach combining ambition and pragmatism. We pay particular tribute to the key role played by the African Group in the finalization of this Pact.

It is in the same constructive spirit that we will play our full part in the upcoming major conferences. You can count on Belgium to act as an honest broker and bridge builder between the institutions, other processes and the Member States. You can also count on us to reiterate the importance of the "leave no one behind" principle in each and every process.

We see the adoption of the Pact, the upcoming COP and the FFD4 conference as opportunities to move the needle. More than ever, we need to build trust and strengthen cooperation. We need mutually beneficial partnerships that work over the long term and that are truly win-win partnerships through sustained commitment. Central to this transformation is keeping the concept of international solidarity at the heart of what we do. We hope that the progress made in the EU-AU partnership on global health during our Belgian EU Presidency can serve as an example in this regard.

Let me conclude by saying that Belgium has been a leading voice in improving operational efficiency and effectiveness within the international financial architecture. We see this discussion as particularly beneficial for LDCs. Indeed, by reducing fragmentation and streamlining processes and procedures between IFIs, we can improve access to financial instruments and speed of implementation for client countries, making the international financial architecture more responsive to the needs of LDCs.

I thank you.