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## **Republic of Zambia**

### **STATEMENT BY MS. ETAMBUYU ANAMELA GUNDERSEN, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR THE LDC FOCALPOINTS WORKSHOP**

**LUSAKA, 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2025**

- Ms. Isil Cemali Dogan, Deputy Director General - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
- Mr. Roland Mollerus, Director, UN-OHRLLS
- Officials from various UN agencies
- All LDC Focal Points Present
- May I simply say, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen!

I wish to thank the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, for inviting me here.

#### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Like other multilateral programmes targeted at supporting Least Developing Countries, the Doha Programme of Action holds enormous potential in enabling Least Developed countries to address a number of vulnerabilities and structural rigidities that have kept our economies way below their potential.

However, from our country experiences, I guess you would all agree with me that having a good programme is simply not enough. It is ultimately the attention given to implementation, including monitoring and evaluation, that are critical to the success of development programmes.

In this regard, I am delighted to see that one of your sessions focussed on sharing guidelines on mainstreaming and monitoring the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. Indeed, without integration of the Doha Programme of Action into our national development planning, monitoring and reporting processes, we cannot effectively guarantee the attainment of the envisaged outcomes of the Doha Programme of Action.

### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am however, mindful that the road to sustainable development is not easy. Our Least Developed Countries have to navigate a host of challenges including geo-political conflicts, development financing gaps and adverse impacts of climate change.

I am therefore, delighted to note that today's workshop provided a platform to share country experiences and highlight both challenges and progress attained. This peer review and sharing of best practices is important to contextualise the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and provide solidarity among Least Developed Countries.

### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would be failing in my duties if I did not acknowledge the importance of the support rendered to the network of Least Developed Countries Focal Points by the United Nations in sustaining the momentum to implement the Doha Programme of Action. This

workshop is testimony of the invaluable coordination role and technical support that the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island States continues to render to the network of Least Developed Countries Focal Points.

This support is critical in strengthening institutional frameworks in Least Developed Countries, and thereby building implementation capacities of the Doha Programme of Action.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

In conclusion, I wish you all a pleasant stay in Zambia and a fruitful LDC Future Forum!

**I thank You!**