

- *Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Italy is honored to take part as an observer to the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*
- *Nothing could have prepared us for the great challenge the world is facing during the year 2020. Yet we did not lose track of our key targets, as we remain fully aware that strengthening health systems, eradicating hunger, promoting gender equality and pursuing all the other SDGs are the only path to a sustainable world.*
- *However complex the challenge we face may be, the fierce & collective response of all countries gives us confidence on the resilience of multilateralism. This is especially important to be reminded 75 years past the end of the world war, when we realized that we needed to be “the United Nations”.*
- *Let me also acknowledge the cooperative spirit with which we have continued to remotely work together these past months. Although we could not meet in person, the use of technology made us all more aware of how easily we could limit our impact on the environment by adopting sustainable choices in our day-by-day life.*
- *This global crisis can bring about the energy needed to achieve the Goals of the 2020 Agenda within the decade.*

- *It can build the needed support for the effective realization of the Istanbul Programme of Action and realize the outcome of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, thus setting the pace for the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in 2022.*
- *While being ambitious and defining priorities remain essential, engagement is key: we want to strengthen strategic partnership with the LDCs in order to address all challenges at a political, financial and technical level.*
- *In order to achieve the goals and the objectives of the Istanbul Program of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, we need everyone to do its part: donor countries, partner countries, UN entities and other international institutions, civil society, the private sector.*
- *As donor countries, we heard from you the main challenges faced towards the transition and graduation process.*
- *We will continue to activate all the strategic partnerships, such as those with IDLO, the Roman based Agencies, the new initiatives in health and nutrition, namely the ACT accelerator and the Food Coalition to strengthen the basis of our cooperation to the benefit of every citizen in the world.*
- *We will continue to support LDCs and look forward to the Fifth United Nations Conference and its preparatory process, thinking to the future with solutions that just yesterday could have been unthinkable to achieve a sustainable development for all.*