

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY,  
MR. ABRAHAM K. KORVAH, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION & ECONOMIC INTEGRATION  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
AT THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF LEAST DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES (LDCS)  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020  
09:00-13:00HRS**

**H.E. Mr. Eisenhower Mkaka M.P.,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and Chair of LDCs**

**H.E. Ms. Amina Mohamed,  
Deputy Secretary General of the UN**

**H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir,  
President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**H.E. Mr. Munir Akram,  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan and President Economic and Social  
Council**

**Distinguished Excellencies;**

1. From the outset, permit me to extend on behalf of His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah; President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and people of Liberia warm sentiments as we commemorate the seventy-fifth (75<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the United Nations.
2. We are observing the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary when the world is confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, undoubtedly, has exposed structural fragilities in countries across the world, with its socio-economic impacts posing enormous strains on countries' ability to implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. The potential to reverse development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains apparent; as we stand the risk of "leaving millions behind" particularly; in Least Developed Countries (LDCs); who are amongst the hardest hit by the Pandemic.

## Excellencies;

4. The future we want cannot be complete without confronting the devastating global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our fight to “leave no one behind” will demand that we intensify efforts and embark on tangible and concerted actions to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic.
5. To this end, enhanced global support will be needed by developing countries; particularly; Least Developed Countries (LDCs); comprising 13% of the world’s population; across the three dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (social, economic and environmental); with conscious efforts to build back resilient health systems and stronger economies.
6. We are now in the final year of implementation of the **Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA)** for the Decade (2011–2020); however, as noted by the Secretary General in his report on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action over the decade; there is evidence both of notable progress on several of its key areas, but also critical gaps where LDCs, as a group have fallen short of meeting the goals, targets and key priorities set out in the Programme of Action; and continue to suffer setbacks to progress towards sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs.
7. This Annual Ministerial Meeting therefore reinforces the need not only to amplify the challenges faced by LDCs; but to also underscore the need for concrete actions within the framework of international cooperation and partnerships; to address the residual issues of the Programme of Action; which remain evidently crucial to LDCs.
8. In this context; we entertain the hope that the Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC-V); will present yet another opportunity for robust and multilateral actions to garner support for LDCs.
9. We thank Malawi; in its capacity as Chair of the Group of LDCs; for her enthusiasm and personal dedication to the work of the Group of LDCs, and for ably steering its affairs; and remain hopeful to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration; which we believe encapsulates core issues pertinent to LDCs.

10. In conclusion, on behalf of His Excellency, Dr. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, I wish to renew Liberia's commitment and support to the ideals and principles of the Group; and look forward to Liberia's participation in the impending Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC-V).

I thank you