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Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT
BY HON. MULAMBO HAIMBE
DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE LDC FOCAL
POINTS WORKSHOP AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN LUSAKA
ON 31ST MARCH, 2025

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Lusaka
March, 2025

- Your Excellency Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for UN-OHRLLS,
- All LDC Focal Points Present,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to welcome you all to this important meeting and I extend special welcome to all our foreign delegates coming to Zambia. We are delighted as a country to host this Least Developed Countries Focal Points workshop alongside the Least Developed Countries Future Forum which starts formally tomorrow, 1st April, 2025.

Allow me to also acknowledge the Turkish Government's generous sponsorship of the Least Developed Countries Focal Points Workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am reliably informed that this network of National Focal Points is critical in facilitating the effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and other global processes such as the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

As we get closer to the year 2030, it is increasingly evident that most Least Developed Countries face significant challenges in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. For this reason, the Doha Programme of Action is a very critical policy framework towards enhancing capacities of Least Developed Countries to manage the path towards sustainable development.

I therefore, hope that this workshop will renew our collective appreciation of the immense opportunities as well as critical responsibilities we have as Least Developed countries to effectively leverage the Doha Programme of Action in our development efforts.

However, since its inception in 2022, implementation experience has highlighted some emerging challenges faced by our countries in mainstreaming and monitoring the Doha Programme of Action. I trust therefore, that this workshop will help us share experiences and learn best practices on how to mitigate some of these challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite the importance of the Doha Programme of Action in addressing impediments to sustainable development in Least Developed Countries, its benefits can only make a difference if

implemented in full and in a timely manner. In this regard, monitoring of progress is critical. As the saying goes, **'if you can't measure it, you can't manage it!'**

I trust that, for you as focal points and technocrats managing development programmes of your respective countries, the various sessions you will attend today, will help strengthen your institutional capacities to effectively mainstream and monitor progress in attaining the goals of the Doha Programme of Action.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is heartening to note that in 2024, Sao Tome and Principe graduated from the LDC category; and that several other countries are recording incremental progress towards their graduation. This development should give renewed hope to all of us and embolden our national efforts to implement the Doha Programme of Action.

It is my hope that soon, more of our countries will be able to graduate from the classification of Least Developed Countries. In order to attain this goal, international partnerships are very critical, hence this workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to appeal to all our Focal Points to ensure that the knowledge and insights obtained from this workshop are shared with the rest of your teams back home. This will ensure that we attain the necessary and full impact of the intended objectives of the workshops.

Ladies and Gentlemen

With these few remarks, I wish you all a fruitful workshop and effective interaction to strengthen your global Network of Focal Points.

I thank You!