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Closing statement by

Ms. Rabab Fatima

Under-Secretary-General & High Representative

**for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries and Small Island Developing States**

at the Parliamentary Forum of LLDC3

4 August 2025, 12:45-13:00

Building 3-06, Awaza

Approx. 5 mins (TBC depending on number of closing speakers)

Honorable Dunyagozel Akmuhammedovna Gulmanova,

Chairwoman of the Assembly of Turkmenistan,

**Honorable Tanzila Norbaeva, Chairperson, Senate of Oliy Majlis of
Uzbekistan**

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

**I congratulate you all on the successful conclusion of the
Parliamentary Forum. And I thank you, Madame Chairperson,
for your personal leadership and commitment to ensure a
successful Forum.**

**I also thank the Inter Parliamentary Union for their strong
support and partnership in organizing this first ever
parliamentary forum of the LLDCs.**

**As we bring this important Forum to a close, I wish to express my
deep appreciation for the leadership, insights, and strong
commitment you have demonstrated to advancing the priorities
of the LLDCs.**

Your discussions have shed light on the persistent and stark reality facing LLDCs, despite their immense potential.

Yet, these challenges must not dictate the future of LLDCs, nor limit their path toward sustainable development.

The Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs charts an ambitious and necessary course toward transformative sustainable development.

It articulates actionable priorities aimed at diversifying economies and enhancing regional and global trade.

The critical task now is turning its ambition into action.

Today's discussions have made it clear that parliamentarians have a unique and indispensable role in moving this agenda forward.

You hold the constitutional power to translate these international commitments into national actions through budgets and policies.

As we take stock of today's dialogue, allow me to underscore four key takeaways from your discussions today.

First, institutionalizing inclusive, country-led reviews of APOA implementation.

A strong message emerged from today's dialogue on the vital role of parliaments in leading regular and participatory stocktaking processes.

These reviews - grounded in national ownership and informed by the voices of civil society, local authorities, and other key stakeholders - are essential to foster transparency, ensure evidence-based policymaking, and sustain momentum in implementing the APOA.

Second, advancing a whole-of-society approach to inclusive governance.

You underscored the importance of making inclusiveness a national priority.

I am happy to note that, there were discussions about concrete steps to increase the representation of women in LLDC

parliaments - currently just 30% - and creating formal mechanisms for sustained engagement with youth, civil society, and the private sector.

Such inclusive processes are not only a democratic imperative, but they also enrich policy outcomes and enhance their legitimacy and effectiveness.

Third, reinforcing legislative leadership for coherent and accountable governance.

Throughout the discussions, it was clear that parliamentarians have a central role in aligning national policies with the integrated priorities of the APOA - across economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

Through your legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions, you are uniquely positioned to drive forward these principles, and to build transparent and responsive institutions that for a resilient society.

Fourth, scaling up support to empower parliaments to deliver.

For parliaments to fulfil their mandates under the APOA, they

must be equipped with adequate institutional, technical, and financial resources.

There was a strong call for the international community to step up its support - through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and resource mobilization - to ensure that parliaments can monitor progress effectively, catalyze opportunities, and translate global commitments into tangible national results.

Excellencies,

The priorities you have identified can serve as catalytic levers to drive implementation, unlock potential, and accelerate progress.

As you return to your national parliament, I urge you to champion the integration of the APOA into national plans, legislation, and budgets. Your leadership is vital to turn our shared commitments into measurable results.

With your mandate, oversight, and sustained engagement, we can change the development trajectory of the LLDCs. Geography must not define destiny. And “landlocked” must not mean being left behind.

Let this Forum be a turning point. A moment that mobilizes parliamentary leadership to realize the promise of the APOA - for

the 32 LLDCs, and for the millions who look to this agenda with hope.

I thank you.