

**Check against delivery**



**Remarks**

**by**

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**High Representative**

**and**

**Under-Secretary-General**

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

**at**

**Closing of the Meeting of National Focal Points of Least  
Developed Countries**

**Thursday, 14 November 2019, 17:20  
Conference Room 11**

HE Amb. Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the UN, and Global Chair of the LDC Group,  
Dear **National Focal Points,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have come to the conclusion of the National Focal Points Meeting. I would like to thank all of you for engaging discussions and active participation.

Over the past two days, we had a thorough review of the national implementation of the IPoA. You covered a broad range of thematic areas from poverty eradication to building productive capacity, sustainable energy and trade, to strengthening resilience and good governance at all levels.

You shared best practices and reviewed effective policies. You spotlighted constraints and emerging challenges. You shed light on areas where adequate resources and enhanced efforts are most needed for LDCs to leverage new opportunities and embark on a path of sustainable development.

I would like to congratulate you for undertaking the inclusive consultation process and rigorous preparations, and achieving fruitful results of this special session of the National Focal Points.

The preliminary findings of your reports will provide invaluable inputs to the following reviews at the regional level early next year, and contribute to the final outcome document of the LDC-V.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The next programme of action for LDCs will nurture and expand on the success in achieving the targets and goals of the IPoA, and introduce new priority areas for action to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

If we want the next programme of action to generate transformative change in LDCs, the outcome of your discussions must be matched with concerted efforts to strengthen institutions, build human capacities, enhance resilience and forge effective partnerships.

National Focal Points play a crucial role in coordinating the implementation and follow-up of the IPoA, and linking this programme of action and other global development frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda, with national planning process.

Your participation in the entire preparatory process is essential, which not only embodies national ownership but also will ensure that every new initiative will be tailored to your national context and deliver effective results on the ground.

The new programme of action will boost development progress in LDCs by accelerating implementation of the sustainable development goals. This requires evidenced-based policy recommendations to assist LDCs to address structural challenges and emerging issues in the pursuit of sustainable development.

To this end, my Office will introduce an academic track to the inclusive preparatory process of the LDC-V. This innovative approach will produce evidence-based policy recommendations to enable LDCs to meet their development needs in the next decade.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Preparations for the LDC-V is in full swing. At the global level, my Office in collaboration with UNIDO held the first pre-conference event to accelerate industrialization in LDCs one week ago. The meeting of the National Focal Points this week kicks off preparations at the national level.

In the meantime, my Office is mobilizing active engagement of the UN system and pulling strength from various stakeholders to contribute to a fruitful LDC-V. We just concluded a very productive Inter-agency Consultative Group meeting on the past Monday, where UN agencies expressed strong commitment and full participation in this preparatory process leading up to the LDC-V. Later this month, I will meet with some Resident Coordinators from LDCs to update them on the preparatory process, and request their full support and close engagement with you along this process.

An intensive process is in front of us. We will keep you closely informed. I would also like to request your active participation.

To conclude, let us work hand-in-hand to ensure that the LDC-V will be ambitious, responsive and transformative; that the new programme of action for LDCs will translate the voices of LDCs into actionable priorities; and above all that LDCs are better positioned to tackle new challenges and leverage opportunities to thrive in the coming decade.

Thank you.