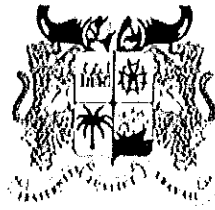


*Mission Permanente
de la République du Bénin
auprès des Nations Unies*



*Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Benin
to the United Nations*

SIXTY NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE PLENARY ON STOCKTAKING
IN THE PROCESS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
(THE DECLARATION)**

**STATEMENT
BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF LDCs**

NEW YORK, 20 JANUARY 2015

Distinguished Co-Chairs
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of LDCs. The group aligns itself with the statement of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China.

The declaration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is vitally important. It should set the tone and overall context of the goals and targets. It should also lay out the ambitions, key objectives, spirit of solidarity and partnerships and a set of guiding principles.

The declaration should set an overarching objective of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the developing countries, in particular LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development for the present and the future generation, and thereby enabling the graduation from the least developed country category.

The SDGs have in a wide extent incorporated and recalibrated the MDGs as a matter of high priority. They form an integrated part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The new global development strategy should primarily be based on Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Rio+20 Outcome and the report of the OWG-SDGs. The new development agenda should fully and faithfully reflect all Rio principles. We would particularly refer to Rio Principle 6, which clearly articulates that the special situation and needs of LDCs shall be given special priority.

Furthermore, **in accordance with para 15 of the UNGA resolution A/RES/69/231**, special needs and development priorities of LDCs, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, should be given appropriate consideration in relation to the post-2015 development agenda.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda should fully absorb the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs. One of the significant lessons from MDGs is that there has been remarkable progress globally, but it is uneven within and across countries. LDCs are lagging behind with more than 47 percent of their population living below the extreme poverty level. They are also lagging behind in all other areas of MDGs. From these records, an important lesson that we draw is that the Post-2015 Development Agenda will remain incomplete and lack legitimacy unless it gives focused attention to LDCs, who are the poorest segment of the global society. The 48 LDCs will serve as a battleground and the litmus test for the success and failure of the post-2015 development agenda.

The declaration should also stress on the genuine partnership, solidarity and a commitment of scaled-up support with the understanding and recognition that LDCs, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need effective national policies, enhanced global support and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda.

Based on the Rio Principle 6 and in light of the key lessons learned from the MDGs, we call for a "Principle of Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs (DPTL)". This is indeed a faithful reflection of the outcomes of the Rio and the Rio+20. The group of LDCs is a long established category of vulnerable countries based on clearly defined criteria. Therefore, we do not need to reinvent the wheel by pursuing arbitrary and non-agreed sub-categorization of countries. As the group of LDCs articulated yesterday, there is growing consensus among the think tanks and development practitioners that income-based classifications are becoming less and less relevant, while the other recognized classification, such as LDCs, is a better option for analytical purposes.

LDCs are not causing the problems related to environmental degradation, but are exposed to the full range of effects. Therefore, one size fits all treatment of countries will not be acceptable. LDCs must have a differential treatment in the context of obligations, consistent with the principle of equity and justice.

LDCs recognize the importance of and are committed to domestic resource mobilization to finance their development. However, the low levels of per capita income, domestic savings and investment and a small tax base limit our domestic resource mobilization efforts. We cannot mobilize sufficient resources domestically to deal with the developmental and environmental challenges. So, LDCs must be provided with preferential treatment in regards to the international support including ODA, trade, technology and knowledge transfer, investment and debt.

Therefore, the Post-2015 Development Agenda should be guided by the Principle of Differential and Preferential Treatment for LDCs- in short DPTL.

Finally, the Post-2015 sustainable development must contain a robust framework of resilience building. The world has experienced many crises and shocks over the past 15 years as a result of weaknesses in the global financial system, fiscal constraints, commodity shortages, climate change, and other factors. There is considerable evidence that in the coming decades such events will be more frequent and destructive. These crises hit LDCs and other vulnerable countries the worst, even though they are generally the least to blame for them, and have severely affected LDCs' limited progress on the MDGs. The eruption of the Ebola virus crisis in some West African LDCs is an important case in point.

High external debt, low fiscal capacity and weak institutions mean that LDCs have very limited resources to help them bounce back from crises. To help all countries weather the crises and shocks we can expect, in coming years, the Post-2015 Development Agenda must reduce the vulnerability of LDCs to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges through strengthening their resilience.

I thank you all for your kind attention.