

**Remarks by the Chair of the Group of LLDCs
at ECOSOC Contribution to the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the
United Nations - Multilateralism after COVID 19:
what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?
17 July 2020, from 9:30 – 10:30 am, New York, virtual meeting**

Madam President,
Dear Secretary-General,
Distinguished panelists and colleagues,

On behalf of the Group of LLDCs, I would like to thank the ECOSOC President for organizing this timely meeting focused on Multilateralism after COVID-19 in preparation for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

During the past seventy-five years, the contributions of the United Nations to the development of the LLDCs have been immense and undeniable. The United Nations and the international community have in general recognized the special development needs of LLDCs in many important documents.

It looks like there is a framework in place to support the LLDCs. However, the reality is that the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs that was held last December revealed only some tangible progress towards some of the SDGs. There are still major gaps and challenges that need to be addressed. For the sake of time I will not list them, but they are well known.

Thus, let me highlight **specific areas to improve multilateralism so as to support the LLDCs:**

First, Financing is critical for LLDCs to effectively implement the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and successfully address the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that ECOSOC shall help facilitate the partnerships between LLDCs and transit countries, development partners and international organisations.

Second, the COVID-19 has placed greater urgency and importance to addressing the special needs of the LLDCs. Addressing the multifaceted challenges requires enhanced partnerships including at bilateral, regional and interregional level so that they can achieve self-sustained and transformative growth. This should also include better coordination among the UN agencies and ECOSOC structural bodies, meanwhile finding synergies between Security Council and ECOSOC. The past 75 years as well as the recent pandemic outbreak have only made more explicit the utmost importance of the nexus between development and peace and security.

In this vein, the LLDC Group is appreciative to the UN-OHRLLS in collaboration with other UN agencies and other international and regional entities for elaborating the UN Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the VPoA. We hope it will help bring tangible progress. We need more of such initiatives from our multilateral institutions.

Third, we also need the important contribution of the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in order to make multilateralism work and bear fruits in our countries. It is therefore important to ensure their involvement.

Fourth, we request that ECOSOC provides more time for dedicated discussion of the special issues of LLDCs in particular to have the LLDCs be included as an Agenda item in the future programmes of the High-level Political Forum.

I thank you for your kind attention.
