

**Statement by Chair of the LLDC Group at the Briefing  
Session on the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review  
of the Vienna Programme of Action**

- Excellencies,
- Under Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, Ms Fekitamoeloa ‘Utoikamanu,
- Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Group of LLDCs let me express my gratitude to Under Secretary-General Ms. ‘Utoikamanu for organizing this briefing and I also wish to thank you for having made time to attend.

Excellencies,

This is a very important time for LLDCs as we undertake a comprehensive look at the progress so far achieved by LLDCs toward attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action and, most importantly, mapping the way forward towards accelerating implementation.

It is important to recall that the VPoA is integral to the 2030 Agenda and that its full and timely implementation is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by the LLDCs.

Our Programme of Action is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between LLDCs, transit countries and development partners as well as strengthened partnership within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation and with relevant

international and regional organizations, public and private sector.

This partnership remains important, in this crucial moment that we undertake the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action and embark on the last lap of its implementation. It is in this regard that the full participation of all the relevant stakeholders in the Comprehensive High-level midterm review is fundamental. I therefore kindly invite you to fully participate in this process at the highest level. This will be a true demonstration of your commitment to achieving the global principle behind the 2030 Agenda of “leaving no one behind”.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for your support during the preparatory process of the midterm review and the constructive spirit that prevailed during the negotiation of the outcome document. It is my hope that we continue in this spirit during the High-level midterm review as well as the implementation of the outcome of the midterm review.

Finally, I would like to thank the Office of the Office of the PGA and Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and UN-OHRLLS for the ongoing preparations for the High-level midterm review.

I thank you