LDCs Intervention at the FFD4, third PrepCom

on Data, monitoring and follow up

**Distinguished Co-facilitators**

I have the honor to make these remarks on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). We align our statement with the statement delivered on behalf of G77 and China.

We firmly believe that a robust monitoring and follow-up mechanism is highly important to track the progress of the commitments expressed in Sevile.

Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms adapted at the national, subregional, regional and global levels are crucial for the successful implementation of the FfD4 outcome document.

LDCs are among the Member States that have not been able to fully capitalize on the power of data. The FfD4 Outcome presents an opportunity to take a step further in unleashing the power and opportunity of data in the LDCs.

We highlight the following important elements to retain in the zero draft:

* The commitment to increase financial support for data and statistical capacity building in developing countries, especially countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges [63b]. We propose to specifically reflect the LDCs in this paragraph.
* The invitation to the United Nations Statistical Commission to follow up on gaps in coverage and capacity building needs on the financing indicators as reflected in paragraph 65a.
* The commitment to advance the process on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond GDP, as reflected in paragraph 64e.
* The consideration to hold a follow-up conference by 2029 as mentioned in paragraph 65g.

Let me now highlight the issues that need to be strengthened:

In paragraph 65(a), we urge the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to be innovative and ambitious. We need to be able to understand:

a) The total financing needs for each developing country

b) The financing gaps to meet our sustainable development needs

While estimates have been made before on various sectors, they are largely focused on investment requirements. We need a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development financing needs and gaps.

We emphasize the importance of targeted and strategic investment to develop and maintain LDCs' data and statistical capacity. This is crucial for effective monitoring and decision-making.

We stress the importance of an implementation focus for all data monitoring and follow-up actions and commitments. It is not enough to collect data; we must ensure it is used effectively to drive progress.

In conclusion, we believe these refinements will strengthen the Outcome Document and better address the specific needs of LDCs in terms of data, monitoring, and follow-up.

We look forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the FfD4 outcome.

Thank you.