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**UN-OHRLLS**

**Statement**

**by**

**Rabab Fatima**

**Under-Secretary-General and High Representative**

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

**at the**

**3rd Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)**

**Agenda Item: International Development Cooperation**

**12 February 2025**

**10.00am – 1.00pm**

**Excellencies,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to intervene in this session on International Development Cooperation. This remains a critical issue for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.**

**Official development assistance**

**ODA remains a vital source of external financing for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. Yet, despite long-standing commitments, many of these countries continue to experience shortfalls in the quantity and predictability of ODA flows.**

**We are pleased to see the inclusion of the target of at least 0.2 per cent of ODA/GNI to LDCs, as well as the inclusion of a commitment to increase the share of ODA programmed at the country level and focused on long- term sustainable development that responds to the needs and priorities of recipient countries, including by increasing the share of budget support in ODA, and the inclusion of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.**

**Financing for climate, biodiversity and ecosystems**

**Climate finance, especially for adaptation is a lifeline for SIDS, LLDCs, and LDCs, which face disproportionate impacts from climate change despite contributing the least to global emissions. Smooth and affordable access to climate finance, including through vertical funds is key.**

 **The FFD4 Outcome must contribute to the full delivery of commitments in climate finance, as well as new and additional resources to support adaptation and resilience-building efforts.**

**It will be important that language on the Loss and Damage Fund operationalization is retained, as this remains a priority, for many of the vulnerable countries facing threats arising from climate change.**

**Development effectiveness**

**Effectiveness in development cooperation is critical to ensuring resources translate into meaningful outcomes.**

**We must reinforce country ownership, take advantage of existing country systems, improve coordination among donors, and streamline access to financing mechanisms.**

**Strengthening capacity-building and paying attention to the absorption capacity of vulnerable countries, ensuring that development finance is results-oriented will help maximize its impact on sustainable development.**

**Development cooperation architecture**

**The global development finance architecture must be more responsive to the most vulnerable countries, which speaks to the needs of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. This includes ensuring that resources are provided to deliver the existing Programmes of Action for each Group, and that the Programmes of Action are mainstreamed into the work of the IFIs. This includes increasing the voice and representation of vulnerable countries in IFIs We further emphasize the importance of partnership and coordination among donors, which can help increase the efficiency and impact of programme delivery and implementation.**

**Excellencies,**

**Ambitious outcomes on international development cooperation are especially important for the most vulnerable nations that rely on them most heavily. I hope to be able to rely on your strong commitments on these issues.**

**I thank you.**