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**Committee on Trade and Development
(Aid for Trade)**

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COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT – 59TH SESSION ON AID FOR TRADE

STATEMENT BY NEPAL ON BEHALF OF THE LDC GROUP

14 November 2023

Comité du commerce et du développement (Aide pour le commerce)

DOCUMENT DE SÉANCE NON OFFICIEL¹

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Comité de Comercio y Desarrollo (Ayuda para el Comercio)

DOCUMENTO DE SALA NO OFICIAL¹

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* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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59TH SESSION ON AID FOR TRADE, THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Statement by Nepal on behalf of the LDC Group

14th November 2023

Agenda item (II) Mainstreaming

(b) Update on Members and Observers Trade and Development Strategy (Bhutan's Export Development Strategy)

Thank you, chair, for giving me the floor.

- I am delivering this statement on behalf of the LDC Group.
- I would like to thank Director General Mr Sonam for the important updates. The LDC Group wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Bhutan for the informative and comprehensive presentation: these insights are of great value to us.
- We are happy to take good note that Bhutan has updated Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study (DTIS) and launched in 2021 which includes Bankable projects most needed for the national trade development.
- Similarly, National Export Strategy was formulated and launched in 2022. The National Export Strategy and the DTIS recommendations are being mainstreamed into the national plans (13th Five-Year Plan and 10-year strategic plan of Bhutan) with strong focus being given to development of trade related, market expansion, trade diversification, enhancing exports, and increase of trade in services such as digital trade, tourism and investments.
- LDC Group is happy to hear that Bhutan has expedited accession process to the WTO. LDC Group looks forward to welcome Bhutan as member of WTO as soon as possible and extends our solidarity for smooth accession to the WTO. We also congratulate for the graduation from LDC category.
- Finally, LDC Group would like to thank EIF and other agencies for their great support to bring the strategic policy papers and we urge for the continued support for the implementation, we also wish for best implementation of those policies.
- Thank you chair.

(b) Update on Members and Observers Trade and Development Strategy (The Gambia's Green Recovery Focused NDP 2023-2027)

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of LDC Group

- I would like to thank representative of the Gambia for the important presentations on behalf of excellency Permanent Secretary. LDC Group wishes to express its sincere gratitude to The Gambia for the informative and comprehensive presentation on The Gambia's Green Recovery Focused National Development Plan 2023-2027.
- Chair, as you might be aware that LDCs are the one which have been facing several challenges due to the climate change despite their minimum roles in the carbon emissions and environmental degradation.
- In this regard, The Gambia has come up with Green Recovery Focused National Development Plan which includes the priority areas, indicators and outcomes, these are of course, great value to us. The development of Climate Finance Proposal to access trade related climate finance are insightful which will be able to receive the great attention from the development partners and we are hopeful that the implementation of these projects will enhance climate smart production and resilient agriculture value chain.
- Finally, LDC Group would like to thank EIF for its support and we urge for the continued support for the smooth implementation, we also wish for best implementation of the National Development Plan of the Gambia.
- Thank you chair.

Agenda Item (II) (c) Update on Activities of the Enhanced Integrated Framework

- Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor.

- LDC Group would like to thank EIF for the presentation and updates. I appreciate your efforts to mainstreaming trade with the spirit of Aid for Trade through the phase one and phase two.
- We welcome the EIF Board's decision on the utilisation of remaining funds more than 1 million USD for priority activities until March 2024.
- Also, we would like to thank EIF for organizing EIF Global Forum during the WTO Public Forum where LDC Group also participated actively. Views expressed by the speakers and experiences shared during the program have of course great value to the beneficiaries and donors.
- Chair, for the purpose of the transparency, Task Force composed of LDC constituency and Donor Group is working to develop objective, program and institutional anchoring on the possible future of the EIF taking into the account of evaluation report and ODI option paper, LDC Group is hopeful that we come with amicable solution.
- LDC Group extends its appreciation to the development partners which have been providing various assistance through EIF. I also take this opportunity to urge for EIF and development partners for the increasement of the aid for trade in line with the provision of Doha Action of Plan and SDGs 2030. I thank you, chair.

(I) RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

(a) Reports from International Financial Institutions: [World Bank](#)

- Thank you chair.
- LDC Group would like to thank the representative of the World Bank for the presentation highlighting the growth of commercial services.
- Only a few LDCs have been able to increase the exports of commercial services in a reasonable value however most of the LDCs share is still very low.
- In total, the share of LDCs service export is less than one percent. Service sectors especially travel, transport and tourism were badly affected by covid 19 pandemic. We understand that the share of the service sector in total employment is 31% in Low Income and 40% in Lower Middle-Income countries, very low compared to High Income and Upper Middle-Income countries, still agriculture sector is dominant in the Low Income and Upper Middle-Income countries.
- Chair, we highly value the supports of World Bank in many areas including in trade sectors.
- Digital divides have stood as the challenges for enhancing ecommerce and digital services in the LDCs. LDC Group urge World Bank to increase its support to the five areas as you have rightly identified while considering the members' needs and priorities at the centre.
- I Thank you Chair.

(a) Reports from International Financial Institutions: [African Development Bank](#)

- Thank you, chair.
- LDC Group would like thank representatives of African Development Bank for the important updates. LDC Group appreciates its supports and initiative for building resilient development, trade infrastructures and enhancing inclusive trade in the Africa. Thank you chair.

(a) Reports from International Financial Institutions: [Asian Development Bank](#)

- Thank you chair.
- LDC Group would like thank representatives of Asian Development Bank for the important updates with highlighting some economic indicators in the region. We also thank for the study report which highlights trade financing gap, one of the most important areas to be focused. I thank you chair.

(I) RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

(b) Reports from Members, Observers and Observer organizations- [China](#)

I would like to thank my colleagues from China for the updates on China's support to the LDCs, we appreciate for this support and urge for the continued support. I thank you, chair.