

**74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Second Committee**

**Agenda Item 21: Groups of Countries in Special Situations: (a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs; & (b) Follow-up to the Second UN Conference on LLDCs**

**INDIA STATEMENT**

**By Mr. Siddharth Malik, First Secretary**

**18 October 2019**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Palestine on behalf of Group of 77. We thank the Secretary-General for his reports under the agenda item 21.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the delegation of Malawi and Paraguay for their successful leadership of LDC and LLDC group respectively.

Mr. Chair, despite the remarkable socioeconomic progress that the world has witnessed over the past few decades, not all countries have equally shared this global progress.

Least developed countries (LDCs) continue to face challenges of resource mobilization, capacity constraints, lack of access to technology and are more vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters and communicable diseases. Landlocked developing countries face special challenges associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets which makes them disadvantageous in achieving economic growth and overall sustainable development. These countries also face barriers in attracting public and private investment, due to macroeconomic, regulatory, market and other perceived risks, as well as difficulties in the effective preparation and development of projects.

Mr. Chair,

LDCs and LLDCs deserve special attention to achieve Agenda 2030 as per the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) respectively. In that spirit, India had made its contribution for ensuring a successful organization of the Mid Term Review of the IPoA Conference and similarly we have made contributions to UN OHRLLS for organisation of the Mid Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action to be held this year. This year's Vienna Program for

Action Mid Term Review for LLDCs will be useful in assessing opportunities and challenges faced by LLDCs .

Mr. Chair,

India remains fully committed to extend support and experience to the countries in special situations. As a fellow developing country, India has longstanding development partnerships with focusing on capacity building, sharing of technological expertise, financial assistance and infrastructure development to create long term sustainability in these countries.

India established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in 2017 and a sum of US\$ 176 million has been committed for the next decade focussing on the developmental projects in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. In just about two years, the Fund has been able to develop 38 projects in 36 partnering countries. 29 Projects are already under initiation and implementation stage with many nearing completion. In addition, India along with Brazil and South Africa has an active partnership with UNDP for fruitful South-South Cooperation to assist developing countries, mainly LDCs, through the IBSA Trust Fund. India has also made its financial contribution to the trust fund for the technology bank for LDC countries. The three India-Africa Forum Summits held so far along with the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation(FIPIC) have further crystallized this special relationship.

India will also take active part in preparatory process related to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Qatar in 2021, which will mark 50 years of establishment of LDC category. We would like to recall that the idea of creating a separate category of LDCs was discussed and took shape in the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNCTAD Session held in New Delhi in 1968.

Mr. Chair,

Let me once again reassure you of India's strong support and steadfast commitment to continue sharing our development experience and expertise with countries in special situations to overcome their challenges and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

I thank You.