



**STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR DR. AJUN KARKI AT THE
BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

ESCAP 69th SESSION, SENIOR OFFICIALS SEGMENT, 25-27 APRIL 2013

Mr. President, Under Secretary General and Secretary General's High Representative Mr. Gyan C Acharya, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak on behalf of LDC Watch. I would like to bring on board LDC peoples' perspectives to the biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Two years, since the adoption of the IPoA, we believe that the implementation of the Programme has not made considerable progress. The overarching goal of the IPoA to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to enable, at least half of them, to graduate within the decade remains a far cry.

Excellencies,

We are particularly concerned about lack of implementation of actions committed by developed partners especially related to policy coherence for development. In this context, I would like to highlight our current campaign and advocacy on the most urgent issue of TRIPS waiver granted to LDCs and whose extension period is expiring on the 1st of July. Although the WTO rules legally obliges the LDCs to be granted the extension period upon a duly motivated request by the LDCs which they have already made in November last year, this obligation is being contested by our partners. This very important issue of TRIPS waiver has a large bearing on improving the trade target of the LDCs. We, therefore, would like to draw attention of members on this very critical and most urgent issue and further urge them to defend the interests of the LDCs with developed partners. The TRIPS waiver extension is a legal obligation which therefore, needs to be granted by developed partners without any conditionalities attached.

Our other concern is of full implementation of committed ODA flows to LDCs. The IPoA renews the aid commitment of 0.15-0.20 per cent of GNI by 2015. We urge developed partners to meet their renewed commitment as without

adequate resources, the development challenges of LDCs cannot be fully addressed.

Mr. President and Excellencies,

Finally, we request UN ESCAP, OHRLLS and UN DESA for creating enabling environment for active and effective civil society participation in the implementation of the IPoA, Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Clearly, in our role as both partner and pressure group in our own right, our campaigns and advocacy is purely linked towards defending and ensuring the rights of our countries and our peoples who are most marginalised and vulnerable on the development radar. We, therefore, call upon our governments, development partners, the UN systems and all other key stakeholders to genuinely encourage and engage civil society in the planning, policy-making and implementation of the IPoA at all levels – /national, regional and international – so that we engage in a truly co-ordinated and coherent partnership for development.

We look forward to strengthening our partnership and engagement especially, given the ongoing deliberations on the Post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which must place LDCs at its very core as without LDCs, there can be no sustainable development, No SDGs without LDCs!

Thank you for your attention.

25 April 2013