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Thank you, Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I wish to join the previous speakers in thanking H.E. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations, for her opening remarks.

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and Ambassador Robert Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada on your election as Co-chairs of LDC5 PrepCom. I am sure you will steer the process of this Preparatory Committee to a successful conclusion.

fundamental in complementing the efforts of my Government in achieving the SDGs. Therefore, the involvement of the international financial institutions is so important in re-building economies and resiliency in LDCs, amidst Covid-19 and post Covid-19. Not only will they help foster the increase of financial stability, but also provide time-bound suspension of debt service payment and measures to ease the debt burden of the LDCs.

Fourthly, developed countries shall continue to provide all LDCs with their trade preferences, including duty free and quota free along with simple rules of origin. This will tremendously help