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**United Nations Office of**

Your Excellency, Dr. Chilima, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are closing a week-long intense, enlightening, and productive conversation.

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I especially thank FAO, UNDP,

The recently launched African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) provides additional market access opportunities for African LDCs.

There is great untapped potential in e-commerce and opportunities for LDCs to integrate into regional and global value chains.

Of course, physical infrastructure, like transport

is

There is also the need for more external finance, but the right kind.

This ranges from ODA that is effective. Effectiveness includes being aligned with country priorities and supports the mobilization of other resources, includes improving tax administrations, and includes looking for blended finance.

It also includes working towards changing the risk perception of LDCs.

It also means that it is now that we must deal with unsustainable debt levels.

Measures must be taken that are responsible, innovative, and lead to long-term solutions such as debt cancellation, debt swaps, and debt workouts.

Last but by no means least, we need to work more closely with the private sector.

We are often told money is there, but we need to channel private finance into sustainable development action that contributes to job creation.

We need a better policy environment and conditions for

We must build back better and greener for all and enhance resilience to future shocks.

I thank you.