

Distinguished Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee,

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[Developing a Strategic Roadmap]

As we already have a POA well ahead of the Conference, we shall now prioritize on developing a strategic roadmap, along with a results framework for implementation.

The LLDC3 Conference will be an excellent opportunity to discuss and finalize the strategy to implement the new POA, along with the necessary means and tools to achieve our goals and targets.

[Ensuring Effective Implementation]

To translate our collective ambition, we need to pursue a well-coordinated approach, leveraging the expertise and resources of all stakeholders. We must focus on building strong partnerships, fostering innovation, and mobilizing the necessary financial and technical support to translate our ambitions into reality.

We will rally the entire UN system to provide coordinated and coherent support for the successful implementation of the POA.

[Mobilizing resources]

I commend those countries that have generously contributed to the Trust Fund in support of the Conference and its preparatory process. Your contributions have been invaluable in ensuring the progress we have made thus far. However, to ensure the smooth convening of the LLDC3 with active participation from LLDCs and other stakeholders, I would call upon other development partners to come forward with contributions to the Trust Fund. Your commitment and generosity are crucial for the success of this Conference and the effective implementation of our collective agenda.

Excellencies,

I deeply appreciate the gracious offer from the Government of Botswana to host LLDC3 in the fourth quarter of 2024. This will enable us to keep the extraordinary momentum generated in favour of LLDCs and the Conference.

I take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Rwanda and its Permanent Mission in New York for their tireless efforts in support of the preparation of the Conference.

We fully understand that due to some scheduling conflicts, Rwanda is unable to host the Conference in 2024.

As we move forward, we fully count on Rwanda's continued support in the preparations of the Conference.

I will ensure full support of the UN system to Botswana to ensure a successful conference.

[In terms of the way forward]

I understand, the G77 is considering the draft resolution to decide on the new date and venue, which will need to be endorsed by the General Assembly soon.

A new invitation letter from the Secretary-General will be sent following the adoption of the resolution.

I also intend to lead the first UN inter-departmental planning mission to Gaborone soon.

[Preparation on tracks]

Excellencies,

Good progress is being made on other preparatory tracks for the Conference, including those on: the civil society, private sector, youth, parliamentarians, a South-South Cooperation Ministerial Meeting, a “women leaders’ meeting”, side events, and UN principals meeting.

These are all in an advanced stage of preparation. You will find updated information and documents in our dedicated website for LLDC3.

In due course, we will hold a detailed briefing on the organizational and logistical preparations for the Conference, to provide you with an update on the preparations.

Excellencies,

By working together with determination and a shared sense of purpose, I am confident that we will deliver a highly successful LLDC3 Conference, with an ambitious outcome that can achieve the transformative changes as envisioned in the Programme of Action.

Let us continue to collaborate closely and support each other in this endeavor, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for all LLDCs.

In closing, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, let me reiterate that it is imperative to have highest-level political participation at the Conference to show solidarity and commitment to advance the new LLDC agenda for the next decade.

I thank you.