Allow me to congratulate the distinguished Co-Chairs and other members of the Preparatory Committee Bureau once again on their well-deserved elections.

I am confident that given their expertise, experience and dedication, the bureau will be able to effectively lead the work of the Preparatory Committee to its successful conclusion.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Rwanda for offering to host the Conference.

This will be the first time that the UN Conference on LLDCs will be held in Africa, home to half of the LLDCs. We must seize this opportunity to make this Conference a great success and a truly transformative one.

My presentation will focus on the organizational and substantive preparations for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs.

The UN General Assembly in its resolution 76/217 designated my Office as the UN system-wide focal point for the preparatory process of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs. The Assembly also mandated that the Conference should be preceded by national and regional-level reviews, as well as thematic preparations.

Accordingly, my Office, in collaboration with different stakeholders has embarked on an extensive preparatory process at national, regional, and global levels.

Preparations have been taken on three broad streams:

First: national and regional reviews, and thematic meetings.

Second: reports and analytical works. and

Third: advocacy and outreach activities.

Under the first stream, I am pleased to inform you that 15 LLDCs have already submitted their national reports on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA). A synthesis report will be prepared by my Office on the lessons learned and best practices in the national level implementation of the VPOA.

I am also happy to share that all three regional review meetings have been successfully held.

The Africa Regional review meeting was held in May 2023 in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting adopted the Gaborone Outcome Document.

The Latin America Regional Review meeting was held in Asuncion, Paraguay in July 2023, which adopted the Asuncion Call for Action.

The Euro-Asia regional review meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2023. And it adopted the Euro-Asia Call for Action.

The three outcome documents from the regional review meetings contain important recommendations and reflected in detail the

My Office, in close collaboration with the Chair of the Group of LLDCs, is also planning to organize focused side events during the

organize a half-day thematic event in the second half of 2023 to provide substantive input to the Conference. OHRLLS will work closely with the Offices of the PGA and the PECOSOC to organize this event.

Most importantly, the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), to

The new Programme of Action should represent a strong global commitment to fulfill the development aspirations of the LLDCs, leaving no one behind.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the POA is ambitious and matches the hopes and aspirations of the LLDCs with concrete targets, commitments, and deliverables.

It will also be critical that the POA is equipped with necessary means of implementation