

H.E. Dr. Lemogang Kwappe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Botswana; H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the 79th Session of the UNGA; H.E. Mr. Robert Rae, President of the UN Economic and Social Council; and Your Excellency Ms. Fatma Rabab, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to this important 23rd annual ministerial meeting convened under the theme "Building Momentum Towards Gaborone: Partnering for a Decade of Action and Transformation in LLDCs."

This meeting comes at a pivotal moment as we reflect on how to support the implementation of the new Programme of Action, with its five priority areas, to address the structural transformation challenges for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has been working closely with the Office of the UN High Representative to ensure that South-South and triangular cooperation are anchored as critical avenues for the implementation of the Programme of

