

**Draft LDC Group Statement Delivered by Nepal at the
Committee on Trade Facilitation
Held on 2 -3 May, 2018**

Thank you Chair for convening this meeting and giving me the floor.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of LDC Group.

The LDC Group should be able to fully realize all intended benefits in the implementation of trade facilitation agreement. The LDC Group wishes to extend sincere thanks to the TFAF for co-sponsoring and in organizing a workshop on 11 and 12 April for Geneva based LDC delegations on TFA implementation, covering a wide array of LDC issues.

The workshop provided a good platform to share the status of ratification and notification, utilization of Section II, linkages between three sections of the agreement, S&DT and flexibility provisions for LDCs, simulation of notification requirements, and technical assistance and capacity building to implement the TFA.

It has been more than one year since the TFA came into effect. The LDCs are in different stages of its ratification and notification. The workshop provided several issue-based information, including the role of TFAF. The information shared by the

TFAF were quite useful. Similarly, the materials and information on various issues shared by the experts from the Summit International Alliances sponsored by Australia were highly important. Also, the information shared by World Customs Organization, UNCTAD and International Trade Centre were equally relevant.

To date, 22 LDCs have submitted their instruments of ratification, 26 members have notified category A measures and 19 members have notified B and C category measures. The LDCs are facing several challenges in different stages including need assessment, ratification, notification and implementation of notified categories. Even though the LDCs members who have ratified and notified, they are also facing challenges of implementation.

The information sharing by the Secretariat in the morning was useful. We thank the Secretariat for the sharing.

The communication from the US (G/FTA/W/5) on its experience sharing on National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) basically the participative structure of the NTFC, leveraging the network of private sector and coordination and mobilizing the inter-agency support is important. Similarly, the experience sharing from Turkey, Brazil and Republic of Moldova on the National Trade Facilitation Committee and national action plan, the presentation by European Union on its customs transit procedures, and sharing by China, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on implementation related matters are useful. The LDC Group wishes to thank to all the presenters.

The LDCs have been facing several supply-side constraints and trade-related infrastructural challenges both at the border and behind the border. We would like to request to the developed members and development partners to support us to address both software and hardware challenges not only at the border but also behind the border. Likewise, enhancing the capacity to address NTMs challenges including the testing facility, meeting the standard and mutual recognition are also equally important.

Meeting the goals and targets of SDGs and IPoA are fundamental to the LDCs. We underscore the need of discussion on how the implementation of TFA supports in achieving IPoA and SGDs which aim, among others, in doubling the exports of LDCs.

The communication from Australia on review of donor notifications as set in Article 22 of the TFA (G/TFA/N/AUS/2) which is scheduled to be discussed in the dedicated session later is relevant. The LDC Group wishes to thank Australia. Similarly, the Group thanks to all developed members who have notified under Article 22 of the agreement.

Regarding effectiveness of the financial and technical assistance to implement the category C measures in LDC countries, we ask to follow the 5 Paris principles on aid effectiveness.

Finally, the LDCs wishes to congratulate and thank you Chair for completing the term as the Chair of the committee effectively and successfully.

I thank you !

Nepal notified all categories on 16 February. Most of our notifications are under the category B and C. Regarding the implementation of category B and the TA need for capacity building to implement the category C , my capital is working on it.