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Written statement* submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[02 February 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Concrete action to support the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the fight against the devastating effects of climate change and ultimately achieve SDG Goal 13

The UN Madrid Climate Change Conference in December 2019 concluded with the adoption of a cover decision titled ‘Chile Madrid Time for Action’, but regrettably key issues were left unresolved. Mr. Sonam P Wangdi, Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group reflected that “This COP was not able to meet our expectations in raising ambition to address the concerns of our people at home and youth around the world ... Our people are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. Our communities across the world are being devastated. With strong scientific evidence brought by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the effects of global warming, the urgency for all countries to step up and address the climate crisis now has never been clearer.

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries called on all governments to undertake the ambitious step to significantly improve their Paris Agreement emission reduction pledges by early 2020, and to adopt a decision reflecting the urgency of the climate crisis from the Madrid COP25 event.

It is evident that ambition and early and bold action are badly needed to achieve crucial results in time, although the successful adoption of the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement in December 2018 in Katowice provided a good basis to start turning commitments into concrete policies, laws and systems. Ambassador Lois M Young, Chair of The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a coalition of 44 small island and low-lying coastal developing states, declared at COP25 that “ Our countries and our people are all too familiar with the consequences of inaction. We cannot let it continue... we cannot wait another year for ambitious climate action. It must start now”

The Least Developed Countries (LDC Group), made up of the 47 poorest countries in the world, which contribute the least to climate change, yet disproportionately suffer from its ever-increasing impacts, represents over one billion people throughout Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean. The LDC Group is increasingly ensuring that voice is given to their populations through regular participation in high-level political and technical global challenge of climate change meetings. The Group offers through these platforms, leadership and opportunities for cooperation and work with partners across the world to implement concrete actions that will be felt in their respective communities.

Many ambitious initiatives with potential far-reaching impact have been launched by the LDCs themselves or in partnership with the international community to confront the climate change challenges.

In September 2019, the LDC Group, at the United Nations Climate Action Summit, launched the LDC 2050 Vision, the aim of which is to deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030, and net-zero emissions by 2050, to ensure that ecosystems and societies thrive.

Austria, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, the Gambia, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Malawi Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uganda were signatories at COP25 of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) Partnership Compact as a declaration of support to the principles of strengthened development cooperation in working towards the LDC 2050 Vision. This Initiative was officially launched by the LDC at COP24, with the objective of supporting the LDC 2050 Vision for all Least Developed Countries to be on climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and deliver net-zero emissions by 2050 to ensure societies and ecosystems thrive.

Launching of the Partnership Compact as believed by the signatories, should set out a new way of working to deliver climate ambition at an accelerated pace. The commitment across the LDC Group and development partners is to stand together in a strengthened alliance to achieve a shared 2050 Vision. Several countries additionally expressed their support of the initiative and intent to sign on in the coming months.

The Group in seeking greater levels of climate finance, has called for USD520 million for the Partnership (LIFE-AR) to deliver the Vision, through support to front runner countries to engage in developing long term visions, strengthening institutions, and enhancing delivery mechanisms to reach the poorest and most vulnerable. Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi, Chair of the Least Developed Countries, urged that, ‘The world must undertake a historic shift away from business as usual towards a more effective, ambitious and equitable global response to the climate crisis. And the LDCs are ready to do our part.’

Loss and Damage, which has been a topic of discussion at the annual UN climate change conferences (COPs), is a key priority for LDCs whose populations need support to address devastating loss and damage caused by climate change. At COP25 substantial room was provided for discussions and satisfaction was expressed by the LDC Group on the establishment of an expert group and the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, to assist LDCs to implement actions in their countries that are already facing loss and damage.

It is important to highlight that the reality of climate change impacts will render the 2030 Agenda’s aspirational goals almost impossibly challenging for Least Developed Countries. To mention poverty, hunger, food security, health and wellbeing that will be worsened by the climate change’s impacts, especially in these least developed countries.

According to the World Health Organization, as of the year 2030, climate change is expected to contribute to approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. These already being one of the most common challenges situations in the Least Developed Countries.

Moreover, in developing countries, women and girls are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change. This deepens existing social inequalities and threatens women and girl’s health, safety, and economic well-being. Gender inequalities and development gaps increase the impacts of climate change for women, especially for those that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.

Organisation Internationale Pour Les Pays Les Moins Avancés (OIPMA) welcomes all the actions that have been realized to date, it, nevertheless:

- Strongly urges the Council to raise the current level of ambition in development and climate action;
- Recommends that Member States commits to undertake concrete action to support LDCs in the fight against the devastating effects of climate change in their communities and ultimately achieve SDG Goal 13.