Mr. Chairman,

Check against delivery
Thank you for giving me the floor to speak on this important agenda to the Least Developing Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries to which my own country, Malawi, belongs. My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Fiji, Lao and Benin on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), respectively.

My delegation would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on this agenda item, on both the Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries. These reports provide very good analysis of the status of implementation of the Istanbul programme of Action (IPOA) and Almaty Programme of Action and a sound basis for our deliberations and action in this committee regarding these two groups of countries in special situations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The LDCs and LLDCs have always been confronted with daunting developmental challenges. The recent multiplicity of the global crises, such as the global and energy crises, have further exacerbated the situation and thus making these countries more vulnerable.

This is made clear in the Secretary-General’s report, which depicts that most of the LDCs continue to remain in pervasive poverty, rising inequality, a stagnant share of manufacturing in GDP, continued low economy-wide productivity, insufficient generation of decent jobs and continued vulnerability.

The report has, further, noted the decline of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows, therefore, putting these countries at risk of failing to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

In order to mitigate the adverse effects of the various crises on these countries and also consolidate the economic development thus far achieved, the international community must take into consideration the priorities of these vulnerable countries, inject the
FDI and assist in Capacity Building and technical support also in Research and Development, among others

In this respect, Malawi wishes to recognize the many efforts made by the development partners in assisting the LDCs and also wishes to express hope that this gesture will continue as we move towards the 2015 deadline.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would also like to reiterate the need for all stakeholders to commit to the effective implementation of the IPOA for the decade 2011-2020 and to fully integrate priority areas into sustainable development goals to enable half of the LDCs meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.

It is however, sad to note that although the LDCs, including my own Malawi, have made some progress in social and human development, many of the goals and targets of the MDGs are yet to be achieved. In this vein, we join our fellow LDCs in calling upon our development partners to give special priority to LDCs, in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the MDGs by 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

You may wish to know that the Government of Malawi is implementing the IPOA through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (MGDS II).

The MDGS II is an overarching medium-term development strategy, designed to attain Malawi’s long-term aspiration of graduating from the LDC group. MGDS II has 6 thematic areas, namely: sustainable economic growth, social development, social support and disaster risk management, infrastructure development, improved Governance and cross cutting issue. An implementation plan with clear short, medium and long term interventions has also been devised to ensure that IPOA activities are implemented in a coordinated and systematic manner.
Mr. Chairman,

Commenting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, I join previous speakers in highlighting the needs of the LLDCs. We thank the UN for its continued recognition of the LLDCs, in all its endeavors. However, a lot remains to be done, as the economies of these countries remain fragile and vulnerable to external shocks, including economic and financial crises due to high transportation and transaction costs.

In view of this, it would be of utmost importance if the needs of the LLDCs were to be reflected in the ongoing discussions on the post 2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

As we draw closer to the midterm review of the IPOA and the Almaty Programme of Action, it is imperative that our development partners redouble their efforts to consolidate and build upon the achievements that have been made.

My delegation would, therefore, like to call upon the development partners to fulfill their commitments as contained in all the UN declarations that were adopted in relation to the development of groups of countries in special situations.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, Malawi looks forward to the holding of the midterm review of Almaty Programme of Action and also, of the IPOA to be held next year in 2014 and 2015, respectively, and also to be engaged actively in the preparatory processes.

I thank you all for your attention.