



At the outset, let me start by thanking you and your team for the excellent organization of the meeting. I would also like to express appreciation to Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of UNECA and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, DirectorAt the outset

regional integration and cooperation as demonstrated, for example, by our decision to join the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), and the resumption of the accession process to membership of the WTO.

Coinciding with the LDC plan of action for the upcoming decade, Ethiopia has been taking wide-ranging measures including, formulating a ten-year perspective plan (2020-2030),

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The need for enhanced support to LDCs to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be overemphasised. The upcoming programme of action of LDC V is extremely critical in demonstrating the international community's commitment of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first. In this regard, the African regional review meeting will set the tone for an ambitious, comprehensive, and action-oriented Programme of Action for 2022-2032; with concrete deliverables that address systemic economy-wide gaps and limitations that hinder efforts aimed at fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation of LDCs.

, let me reaffirm Ethiopia's active and constructive engagement in the upcoming sessions of the Africa Regional Review meeting and throughout the process leading to the successful conclusion of the LDC V in Doha, Qatar with an ambitious, comprehensive, action-oriented outcome document that supports LDCs in their endeavour of implementing the Agenda 2030 in the remaining decade.