

H.E. Mr. Eisenhower Mkaka M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and Chair of LDCs,

H.E. Ms. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Secretary General of the UN,

H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan and President Economic and Social Council,

Ministers, Excellencies,

to note that the organizational details and modalities of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs have been finalized. This will provide an important opportunity to build a renewed and strengthened global partnership.

Colleagues, the harsh reality is that Least Developed Countries were struggling before COVID-19.

Multiple and mutually exacerbating challenges, such as climate change, inequality and the digital divide, were already casting a long shadow on the achievement of the



