



**Statement
By
Mr. Courtenay Rattray
Under-Secretary-General
High Representative
for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries
and Small Island Developing States**

Ambassadorial Retreat of LDCs and friends of LDCs

Opening Remarks

Tarrytown Estate, NY

21 October 2021

There are some significant headline proposals that were included by the LDCs in the zero draft of the DPoA, which I feel bear further explanation. And so, we hope to increase the level of understanding of how some of these initiatives could be structured and operate.

To help us in doing so, we have secured presenters, from within and outside the UN system, that can spark interactive discussion.

Discussion that will hopefully lead to an increased understanding of some of the key elements in the Rev.1 Outcome Document.

One such proposal is in the area of education, and so at our first session tomorrow we will hear presentations on **Education for STEM Graduates**.

This is expected to stimulate discussion that touches on the proposal to establish an online university for LDCs.

Similarly, **Session 4 on Trade and Investment** will see presentations that are relevant to the proposal to extend the transition period for graduated LDCs under the TRIPS Agreement, as well as the aspects of the Outcome Document related to Aid for Trade. This Session will also be relevant to the concrete proposal to establish an International Investment Support Center.

Colleagues,

I want to close by asking you to please contact me if you have any questions or comments. My contact information is as follows: etq@un.org, [+1 212 929 2929](tel:+12129292929), www.un.org.

So, I would have been amazed to learn that in 2021, I would be having the opportunity to address you here today - in the build-

