Allow me to congratulate the distinguished Co-Chairs and other members of the Preparatory Committee Bureau once again on their well-deserved elections.

I am confident that given their expertise, experience and dedication, the bureau will be able to effectively lead the work of the Preparatory Committee to its successful conclusion.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Rwanda for offering to host the Conference.

This will be the first time that the UN Conference on LLDCs will be held in Africa, home to half of the LLDCs. We must seize this opportunity to make this Conference a great success and a truly transformative one.

My presentation will focus on the organizational and substantive preparations for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs.

The UN General Assembly in its resolution 76/217 designated my Office as the UN system-wide focal point for the preparatory process of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs. The Assembly also mandated that the Conference should be preceded by national and regional-level reviews, as well as thematic preparations.

Accordingly, my Office, in collaboration with different stakeholders has embarked on an extensive preparatory process at national, regional, and global levels.

Preparations have been taken

My Office, in close collaboration with the Chair of the Group of LLDCs, is also planning to organize focused side events during the

organize a half-day thematic event in the second half of 2023 to provide substantive input to the Conference. OHRLLS will work closely with the Offices of the PGA and the PECOSOC to organize this event.

Most importantly, the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), to

The new Programme of Action should represent a strong global commitment to fulfill the development aspirations of the LLDCs, leaving no one behind.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the POA is ambitious and matches the hopes and aspirations of the LLDCs with concrete targets, commitments, and deliverables.

It will also be critical that the POA is equipped with necessary means of implementation