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1218 Le Grand-Saconnex

Statement by

Hon. Ms. Nelly Kashumba Butete Mutti, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia

Closing session of the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Doha, 9 March 2023

President,

I am Nelly Kashumba Butete Mutti, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia. It is my honour today to speak on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the convener of the parliamentary track to the LDC 5 conference.

Aside from our contribution to two preparatory regional meetings and to this conference, where some 70 parliamentarians from 30 countries participated, the centrepiece of the parliamentary track consists of the official Parliamentary Message that the Governing Council of the IPU adopted in November 2021.

We have already delivered this message to the organizers and we ask that it be placed on the official record of the conference.

Our Parliamentary Message provides a clear vision of what needs to change if we want the LDCs to finally rise up the development ladder. In particular, the Message emphasizes the need for deep reforms in global economic governance so as to level a playing field that to this day remains heavily biased in favour of the more advanced economies.

At the same time, the Parliamentary Message makes it clear that the LDCs need to pay greater attention to their domestic governance, by preventing or quelling conflict, and by stimulating economic and trade synergies among themselves.

things, it made it very clear that the LDC agenda represented by the Doha Programme of Action is not marginal but rather *central* to all our work for the SDGs. We cannot hope to realize the SDGs globally without dramatically improving conditions in the 46 Least Developed Countries where 1.1 billion people live.

The role of parliaments and parliamentarians will be key in all of this. Parliaments must hold governments accountable for the implementation of the DPOA, making sure that *all* governments, not just in the LDCs, internalize this new plan through institutional and policy reforms. All acts of legislation, including the national budget, need to be attuned to the relevant provisions