

**Statement by H. E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh at the  
Special Ministerial Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Mr. President

Bangladesh greatly values the centrality and the legitimacy of the ECOSOC in addressing Sustainable Development in all its three dimensions and we were happy to be part of the discussions in the run up to Rio+20 conference during which the member-states had agreed to see ECOSOC playing an increasingly greater role in the days ahead, inter alia, to coordinate and follow-up on the implementation of the major decisions of the international conferences.

We sincerely believe that the strengthening of the ECOSOC is in the best interest of the member-states especially for those which are working hard to emancipate their people from scourge of poverty, disease and disasters as well as from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Mr. President

As a member of the LDC Group, we would also like to acknowledge the important role that ECOSOC has been playing in supporting LDCs, through the provision of a broad-based and inclusive forum for policy dialogue on economic and social development issues. We also underline the importance of promoting productive

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capacity and inclusive and sustainable economic growth for LDCs and hope that ECOSOC would maintain the momentum created by the Istanbul Conference, by further integrating the LDC priorities into the global development agenda. We recommend that ECOSOC should continue to play an active role in monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and mainstreaming of LDC priorities in all ECOSOC fora, particularly the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and Development Cooperation Framework (DCF). We would also support creation of a regular forum within ECOSOC for the Finance Ministers of member-states to deliberate on crucial economic issues to inter alia, minimize the tendency to side track the UN on important discourse concerning its areas of competence. The timing of such a forum can be examined in the light of the annual meeting calendars of the UN and Bretton-Woods Institutions.

ECOSOC should also take a lead role in addressing climate change and food security, which are critical development challenges that disproportionately affect LDCs.

Finally Mr., President, we expect the ECOSOC to strategically review its role in the post-Rio and post-2015 development framework. The Council should play an important role in ensuring that medium to long-term sustainable development goals are centred around some key LDC priorities. It should also seize the opportunities created by the Rio+20 outcome document and figure out its relationship with the proposed Sustainable Development Council which should be characterized by coherence, cooperation and coordination. ECOSOC should pay increased attention to capacity building as a central priority for LDCs. Energy

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availability and access to modern energy resources is critical to all countries, but especially to LDCs, and should be further reviewed by ECOSOC. As we are in the process of concretizing the post-2015 development agenda and SDG framework, we underline that LDCs deserve particular attention and well-targeted support measures in any global framework for development. In this regard, Bangladesh also wants to see ECOSOC working in close partnership with the High Level Panel on Sustainable Development. On our part, we stand ready to support such partnership.

I thank you, Mr. President.