

## Foreword by Gyan Chandra Acharya, USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

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This first report is a noble exercise undertaken by the *LDC IV Monitor*, an independent partnership whose members are all important stakeholders in the progress and development of least developed countries (LDCs). The challenges and complex vulnerabilities faced by LDCs require not only the commitment and leadership of LDC national governments, the governments of their development partners and multilateral institutions; it calls for the broadest possible collaboration and contributions from all stakeholders. It is only with rapid, holistic and inclusive development that LDCs will be able to attain a structural transformation of their economies, and thus strengthen the resilience of economies. Good governance and effective national ownership and leadership are critical to attain such transformation. This must be complemented by comprehensive, enhanced and effective international support and co-operation.

The principle of mutual accountability is one of the strengths of the LDCs' programme of action, and it is laudable that considerable efforts have been made to follow-up and assess the progress so far. This report will contribute to the global monitoring and follow-up, and will be a useful input to the review process of IPoA.

The topics covered by the report rightly include, among others, areas crucial for productive capacity building, LDC-specific vulnerabilities and international support measures. It highlights the importance of political commitment of, and delivery by, both LDCs and development partners.

These issues, along with other emerging issues, are currently under discussion in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. As the old adage goes, to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose. This is the time to get LDC priorities fully on-board while shaping a new global partnership.