

**United Nation's 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development**  
**Introductory remarks of Honorable JERRY TARDIEU, congressman of HAITI**

***“Perspectives of Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries”***

Good morning:

Let me start by congratulating ECOSOC's President Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King as well as other members of the bureau for organizing the United Nations 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development. It will be my pleasure to share my thoughts on *“the Perspectives of Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries in the new world economy”*.

I am a congressman from Haiti but also an author who did publish in the 90s some public policy papers about the challenges of Less developed countries (including Haiti) in the global economy. In my contribution to a “Harvard Kennedy school book review” published in 2000, and entitled myths and realities of financial globalization, I had highlighted some of the challenges back then. Almost twenty years later, most of those challenges still remain.

As a matter of fact, less developed countries (LDC) and Landlocked developing countries (LDC) have not been able to fully benefit from the past decade's technological and industrial revolutions. Obviously, there are different reasons depending on the country and comparative advantages in the world economy.

**1- MOST OF LDCs still FACE THE SAME CHALLENGES AND CAN ALL PLAY ON THE FOLLOWING FACTORS TO BOOST THEIR ECONOMY**

- Build resilience at institutional, private sector and national levels is essential if LDCs are to continue their sustainable development without disruption. Build resilience at institutional level also means that parliament shall propose and pass laws that support a well-crafted development strategy.
- Implement such reforms while institutions are still weak and income inequalities encourage populist type agendas and associate anti-business mindset and opportunistic behaviors at all levels including government, parliament, judiciary and businessmen and women.
- Access to credit MUST REMAIN AN OBSESSION for LDC leaders especially for small, micro and mid-size enterprises but also the poor smallholders or subsistence farmers in rural areas which constitute the majority of the poor in LDCs.

The problem of development financing, given the major challenge in financing the 2030 Development Agenda. Financing for sustainable development, guided in particular by SDG 17, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, requires the action of various actors: governments to foster the creation of an enabling environment for financing development; the private

sector to mobilize long-term investments; and parliamentarians to create a legal framework that provides investment protection and capital.

- Investment promotion and improved market access is also capital
- improvements of the business environment of LDCs
- Sound Macroeconomic policies which insure fiscal discipline
- Transparency and governance
- A flexible monetary policy to facilitate borrowing and improve financial inclusion, and supporting productive investment.

**IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR SHARE IN GLOBAL TRADE, LDCs HAVE TO DEVELOP SOME SKILLS TO ADEQUATELY COMPETE IN THE WORLD ECONOMY**

Boosting export industries is a MUST for LDC's that should adapt its curriculum based on its needs to push certain industries and sectors more than others (assembly manufacturing, tourism, eco-tourism...) – AT LEAST AS LONG AS THEY ARE POOR WITH SMALL DOMESTIC BUYING POWERS. LDCs curriculum should be based on their needs to push competitiveness of export and import substitution industries more than others.

The ultimate goal of boosting a national economy is to provide jobs to all especially the most vulnerable.

As a congressman, I have had an agenda that pushes for reforms to better integrate the Haitian diaspora. Too often, we lose sight of the role of parliament. It is essential as all policies should be backed up by laws.

**LDC's MIGHT NOT MAKE IT ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT SOME CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL RULES AND INSTITUTIONS TOP EFFECTIVELEY SUPPORT THEM TO ACHIEVE GREATER LEVELS OF INCLUSION and equality.**

Even if some LDCs are successful in diversifying their economy and build up their productive capacities, they remain extremely vulnerable to Emerging shocks – such as **climate change** **And the need to balance economic growth and social priorities imperative.**

Sustainable development across LDCs will require some global responses to some of these shocks, in particular to climate change. For the moment, there is a huge gap between the costs for LDCs to adapt to climate change and funds currently available to them.

The increase in debt with many LDCs has had devastating consequences for their economies. Sources of finance have become more diverse and complex.

International solidarity is good. But it would be better for LDCs to tap into their huge diaspora communities around the world. For most LDCs, no serious strategy can be designed if it does not take into consideration the huge reservoir of competence and financial resources in the diaspora

Haiti has gone from an agricultural economy to a remittance economy. Almost 2.5 billion every year of remittances (30% of GDP). In light of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all LDCs should definitely adapt their strategies, constitution and laws in order to facilitate a greater role and involvement of their diaspora. That role is not only crucial in terms of financial support but it is also in terms of transfer of technical and scientific skills which is key to a sustainable development strategy.

THANK YOU

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