As the only UN Ambassador on this panel, I would like to focus my remarks on the logistical practicalities of the MICs process in the UN Headquarters.

WHY DO IT?

- Leaving the UN Strategy on MICs in limbo or just paying lip service to the subject will undermine the progress towards SDGs in the larger part of the world.
- By not harnessing the development experience of MICs and making them a factor of not holding back but of positive change, the global development effort will miss out on the important catalytic influence for dealing with problems of LDCs.
- Cohesive UN Strategy on MICs is not only and maybe not so much about providing actual assistance through the UNDS framework but more about setting a blueprint to be used by the outside development actors, more about, like in case of SDGs, coming up with a bold vision not just for the UNDS but for the entire global community for addressing a murky and unappealing issue that has to be dealt with no matter how we may resent it.

WHAT TO DO?

- Elaborate a comprehensive UN development system-wide long-term strategy to facilitate sustainable development cooperation with MICs and provide them with coordinated support.
- Ensure uniformity of approach across the UNDS regarding classification of MICs, graduation thresholds, multidimensional index, range of instruments used to attend to specific needs of MICs.

HOW TO DO IT?

- When devising and improving the structure of the Multidimensional Index and choosing specific indicators, clear focus on the most vulnerable groups is a must.
- We look forward to the intellectually challenging input from DESA to help MICs tackle development challenges. As we are approaching the discussion on development cooperation with MICs at the next session of the General Assembly, we would like to have a more creative report of the UN Secretary-General on MICs, with bolder recommendations.

WHO TO ENGAGE?

- First, the Member States have to self-organise. The current pioneering UN Headquarters effort of the Like-Minded Group of Countries in support of MICs is honourable but way too modest to effect immediate change. For the moment the MICs majority in the UN is most regrettably and nearsightedly keeping mum.
- Secondly, the UN Secretariat has to rise up to the expectations of Member States and assume the coordination function of watching over the MICs agenda in the UN. DESA is our trusted think tank and should provide much needed analytical and logistical support and guidance on our way to the UN Strategy on MICs.
- Committee for Development Policy also has a role to play and may get mandate from ECOSOC to draw up its proposals on the way forward.
scope and the structure of the forthcoming report. We have to find the ways of working closer together.