Opening statement by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group

Third part of the first session of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-3)

08 May 2017, Bonn, Germany

Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the LDC Group. I would like to associate myself with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of G77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

2. First let me thank you for the APA reflections note that you prepared in February of this year. We also appreciate the Progress Tracker. These two documents are useful to guide the current negotiations under the APA. They clearly indicate that we have considerable work ahead of us to meet the 2018 deadline that we set for completing the APA work programme.

3. Our Group urges Parties to accelerate work here in Bonn and start directing our discussions toward textual outputs. Therefore, we believe it would be important to instruct the co-facilitators of the various thematic issues under the APA to share informal notes that contain possible elements of skeletal decision texts. This does not have to be too detailed. It would simply give us a way of focussing our work at the COP in November this year.

4. To further enhance this mode of working, it would be useful to have a call for submissions from Parties on possible elements for a decision text on each of the thematic agenda items of the work of the APA. We would encourage you to suggest a similar approach to the SBI and SBSTA Chairs on matters they have under their responsibility relating to the Paris Agreement.

Co-Chairs,

5. it is vitally important that we quickly move forward toward the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and show the world that we are serious about the commitments we have made. We understand that there is some alarming political back-peddling on the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. These countries have also decided not to fulfil their commitments on financial support to address climate change in developing countries, and even funds to support the UNFCCC process itself are not certain. Some major countries also have yet to ratify the Agreement. We really hope that all Parties stay true to the spirit of the Agreement we all adopted and ensure that we take urgent action to fully implement the Agreement.

6. On the issue of making progress, we believe it is possible to identify some key milestones that we could reach at the next COP and resumed session of the CMA in November this year. With the right political will we believe that we could finalise decisions on a number of issues under the Paris Agreement. These could include: an agreement that the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement and institutional arrangements for the Compliance Committee, to name just two.

Co-Chairs,

7. We are grateful for the workshop report on the Transparency Framework. We think it reasonably captures the key discussions during the workshop. It is very evident from this report that work on defining modalities, procedures and guidelines for reporting on mitigation outcomes is far more advanced than modalities, procedures and guidelines for support. We must step up our work to ensure there is balance in the Transparency Framework. To this end we would encourage you to give extra time to the discussions on transparency of support to address this imbalance.

8. Finally we welcome the introduction of the roundtables to be held during this session. It is important that we capture the essence of the discussions from these roundtables. Therefore we encourage you to prepare an informal note that reflects the key points of discussions and key elements of commonality.

Co-Chairs,

9. Our Group stands ready to support you in your work during this session.

I thank you.