

**WGM Remarks: Ministerial Meeting of Least Developed Countries
September 17, 9:00am**

- < Excellencies, Friends, and Colleagues,
- < Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this meeting.
- < We are virtually gathered here today at an extraordinary time.
- < Since January, the pandemic has turned our lives and our vision for the future upside down.
- < It is now abundantly clear that COVID-19 poses an unprecedented threat to our collective achievement of the 2030 Agenda and undermines decades of hard-won development gains.
- < Canada recognizes the complexity and added vulnerabilities facing Least Developed Countries as you respond to the crisis, but also acknowledges that the pandemic has in many instances exacerbated long-standing challenges around poverty, inequality, instability and climate resilience.
- < I am looking forward to this forum,