

The Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting
in preparation of the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC5)
30 August-2 September 2021
Geneva, Switzerland

Political Declaration

Introduction

1. We, Ministers and representatives of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries (LDCs) including Yemen participating in the Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting in preparation of the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC5), are gathered in Geneva, Switzerland from 30 August-2 September 2021 in a hybrid format (both in person and online) to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them; to identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them; to reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the LDCs made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework; and to mobilize additional international support measures and actions, in additio

emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach. While LDCs have contributed the least to climate change, they are the

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LDCs on a priority basis to double generation of electricity per capita in LDCs by 2030 and double the share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption in LDCs by 2030.

45. We reaffirm our commitment to addressing climate change in accordance with our capabilities and national circumstances. We recall the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR), which steps up the climate ambition of LDCs with its vision to deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050, which complements the LDC work programme under the UNFCCC in providing strategic direction for supporting the LDCs in addressing climate change. We call for multi-stakeholder partnerships that will bring together government, private sector, civil society, academia and communities focusing on integrated adaptation, mitigation and resilience planning at national and local levels. We recognize the importance of youth-led initiatives to counterbalance the existing negative effects of climate change and the necessity to support such initiatives while establishing strong institutions and clear regulatory frameworks for environmental accountability.

46. We reiterate the critical role of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement in addressing adaptation needs in the LDCs and underscore the importance of supporting all LDCs in producing their first NAP by end of 2021; implementing their priority adaptation needs in the NAPS under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as other sources; and developing indicators for measuring progress on adaptation on the ground in LDCs. The LDCs face great capacity constraints in accessing these funds. We call upon the developed countries to operationalize the Green Climate Fund fully and in a timely manner, with the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020, promoting and facilitating low carbon and resilient-building projects in the LDCs and addressing the needs of people adversely impacted by climate changes and extreme weather events. We welcome the decisions of the Board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time on a grant equivalent basis and a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs. In the same vein, we call for providing 50 per cent of the total climate finance provided by all developed countries and multilateral development banks to adaptation and resilience and 50 per cent of these funds for particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs.

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50. We underline that given the impact of the food crisis on food security in many LDCs, there is a

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all levels and in all spheres of society, as well as strengthening their voice, while ensuring a safe and

for the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP), as a concrete country-led solution of dedicated capacity development support. We call on member states to support this initiative operationalized under the umbrella of the UN Inter Agency Task Force to further strengthen coordinated and coherent UN System support and bring together country-specific integrated graduation-related advisory and capacity building services responding to the concerns of Member States regarding graduation and serving as a repository and clearing house of initiatives and projects pursued in support of these countries.

89. We call upon the international community to establish an International Investment Support Center (IISC) for LDCs and graduated countries involving all stakeholder to support bankable project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities and risk insurance and guarantees in partnerships with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and other relevant entities. In this regard, we invite donor countries to host the IISC and provide financial support for its establishment and ensure its effective operation with a view to achieving the SDGs and building resilience of the graduating and graduated countries against current and future shocks.

90. We call for a monitoring mechanism that is responsive to emerging crises and that better links monitoring to specific support, including possible extensions of the preparatory period. Enhanced monitoring by the Committee for Development Policy should include, among others:

- Establishing country-specific crisis response process within the monitoring mechanism to identify early warning signs of regression or a risk to fall back to the LDC category and to trigger specific action and support to respond to crises and emergencies happening within the annual monitoring cycle

- Mobilizing existing crisis management expertise of the UN System and other international entities to assist countries in responding to emergencies and building resilience

- Utilizing the convening power of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, both in case of crisis and in case of regular monitoring

- Expanding coverage of annual monitoring reports and the preparation process

91. We welcome the participation at this meeting of many development partners and while appreciating their ongoing support, strongly call upon them for renewed and strengthened global partnerships for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia-Pacific LDCs. We collectively commit ourselves to finding lasting solutions to the complex and mutually exacerbating structural challenges and problems faced by LDCs, who constitute the poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world.

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