

**ZERO DRAFT**

**Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries**

**Introduction -- μ ) U R P , V W D Q E X O 3 U L R U L W L H V W R ' R K D & R P**

1. Fifty years ago in September 1981, the international community met in Paris, France for the First United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and launched the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA) for the 1980s with an ambitious objective of transforming the economies of the least developed countries (LDCs) toward self-sustained development and enabling them to provide at least internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport, communication, housing and education as well as job opportunities to their citizens, particularly to the rural and urban poor.

2. Now, we are meeting for the fifth time, in the most unprecedented of circumstances, in which a health and socio-economic crisis has shaken everyone, individually and collectively. The world is plagued by growing poverty, inequality, digital divide, vaccine divide, complex conflicts, insecurity, climate change and pandemics. Of greatest concern is that one in every three people in LDCs still live in extreme poverty and the pandemic has caused this figure to rise further. We call for greater action and extraordinary measures by all countries, and strengthened international cooperation, to address these challenges affecting LDCs.

come. Ultimately, this seriously compromises the ability of countries to graduate from the LDC category.

6. We recognize that the LDCs, currently consisting of 46 members and comprising about 14 per cent of the global population, are some of the poorest and most vulnerable in the world, accounting for only 1.3 per cent of global gross domestic product, 1.4 per cent of global foreign direct investment and just under 1 per cent of global merchandising exports.

7. We recognize that, despite many challenges and constraints, the LDCs represent an enormous human and natural resource potential for world economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security. Millions of their burgeoning youth and growing working age population offer extraordinary opportunities to become development leaders and the drivers of transformative change. It is imperative that actions for the LDC by all stakeholders aim at addressing the challenges in a sustainable manner and leverage the opportunities offered by new and emerging issues to catalyze the greatest multiplier effects on growth and development. Therefore, a strengthened global partnership that effectively addresses the special needs of the LDCs, will contribute to the cause of peace, prosperity, poverty eradication and sustainable development for all.

8. We also recognize that many LDCs continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints, including narrow production and export bases, stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth, smallness, isolation and remoteness from major markets with almost half being landlocked and small island countries, weak land and natural resource base, and widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition. These long-standing challenges are compounded by new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, increased incidences of natural disasters and public health emergencies, conflicts, fluctuating commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural ,

in only a handful of countries; tax to gross domestic product ratios that increased very slowly; and the

19. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Ebola crisis, the financial crisis and climate change have demonstrated that we live in a highly globalized and interconnected world, where a crisis or a virus in a small city of a country can spread to the whole world in a shortest span of time and have devastating impacts globally. Looking beyond crises and bearing in mind the core principles of the 2030 Agenda, it is our shared responsibility to ensure that no country or person is left behind and reach the furthest behind first.

20. We will undertake actions to leverage the opportunities offered by the 226 million youth population in LDCs, who can be a real agent of change for structural transformation through productive capacity building in agricultural, manufacturing and services sectors; building and maintaining resilient infrastructure to improve movement of goods and services; expanding energy access and broadband connectivity; tapping into emerging technologies; harnessing the economic and health gains that come with educating and employing girls and women at levels equal to boys and men; and setting up social care systems that relieve women of the unpaid care work burden.

21. We are committed to building a stronger and multifaceted resilience system in the LDCs. With the support of the international community, LDCs need to design systems, including infrastructure

World Bank Group and IMF, provide technical support, assistance and policy advice to all priority areas for the LDCs, and this support will be improved including through additional concessional finance and the coordination between agencies and departments, using approaches such as the Integrated National Financing Frameworks.

25. We affirm that the national and local governments play a very important role in articulating and implementing the policies and programmes that will support a sustainable future that leaves no one behind. National parliaments will have a great role to play in enacting legislation and allocating funds that serve all to leave no one behind, as well as holding governments to account for the commitments they have made.

26. The Program of Action will have six key focus areas for Action as follows:

- I. Investing in people in LDCs: Eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind
- II.

well-educated population, with the knowledge and skills needed for productive capacity building and full participation in the decision making process are crucial to achieving sustainable development. However, LDCs still face challenges in ensuring universal access to quality education and health care and their vulnerabilities and limited capacities exacerbate the impact of external shocks such as COVID-19, natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

31. We aim to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and dimensions, to advance human development for all in the LDCs by the end of the decade and to provide opportunities for all, with special attention to the poorest and marginalized groups..

### **Key Action Areas:**

#### **Social protection systems for inclusive economic growth and resilience against shocks**

32. Limited social protection exacerbates vulnerabilities across all dimensions of human development in LDCs, which constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development. Notwithstanding the commitment by many LDCs and their development partners, lack of capacities and limited resources in LDCs are major constraints to providing adequate social protection.

33. **Target:** Achieve quality social protection coverage for all in the LDCs including through dedicated, predictable, and sustained funding.

Ensure access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all LDCs

#### **We agree to take the following actions:**

34. We will reinforce social protection policies and programmes that are risk-informed, gender sensitive and contribute to strengthening the ability of communities and people, particularly the most vulnerable ones, to withstand shocks and crises, expand their productivity, invest in their health and education and protect their aging populations.

35. We commit to ensuring the predictability of resources to maintain social protection through increased and predictable official development assistance and through tax and public transfer reforms and schemes, where appropriate.

36. We commit to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector in delivering social protection programmes, including by expanding the digital infrastructure and information and communication technology capabilities of the public administration, by establishing safe data collection practices to support national registry systems, enhancing cash transfers and payment of entitlements, and by increasing transparency and access to information.

37. We will establish a system of stockholding for LDCs at regional and subregional basis in dealing with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility. In this regard, we invite the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of such stockholding and report to the General Assembly at its 77<sup>th</sup> session for its consideration.



45. We commit to supporting the LDCs to access digital equipment, including low-cost laptops or other devices, as well as educational radio and television programmes and the distribution of equipment such as radios and textbooks to the poorest and marginalized households, especially for girls. We further commit to supporting large-scale national efforts to utilize technology in support of remote learning and online education.

46. We will enhance interaction, collaboration and exchange programmes of students as well as share scientific studies and research papers between academic institutions of LDCs and the rest of the world. We will significantly increase the number of scholarships to LDCs and invite, higher education institutes to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from LDCs, in particular in the fields of science, technology, engineering, medicines and business administration in developed countries and other developing countries.

47. We will establish an online university for LDCs with high academic excellence and international standard and global recognition of its certification, primarily dedicated to teaching graduate and post-graduate studies on STEM for citizens of LDCs and graduated countries. In this regard, we invite the development partners to host this university and provide predictable financing to fully cover tuition fees and other expenses of the students related to their digital access and reading materials ensuring 50-50 gender balance and we request the Secretary-General to submit a report in full consultation with LDCs and their development partners as well relevant UN entities to the General-Assembly for its consideration at its 77<sup>th</sup> Session in outlining the modalities, terms of references and its sustainable funding sources.

### **Empowerment of women, girls and youth to address inequality and drive economic growth**

48. Women and girls continue to face barriers such as lack of access to education, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels, and are subjected to harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage; and gender-based violence. Investments are required to provide access to education throughout the life-course, to expand financial services such as credit, and to eliminate harmful practices and address barriers to full participation in all spheres of society in order to further enhance the contribution of women to economic and social development. The disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social and economic situation of women and girls also pose challenges to foster gender equality in the LDCs.

49. **Targets:** Achieve women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life

Achieve women's equal opportunities in businesses, entrepreneurship and decent jobs.

Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Achieve access to sexual and reproductive health and education for all women and girls.

### **We agree to take the following actions:**

50. We commit to establishing policies and programmes to expand women's entrepreneurship, job opportunities and economic opportunities and ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, and public life, including through institutional reforms.



51. We commit to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation as well as all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

52. We commit to establishing support programmes to prevent and respond to conflict related sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict LDCs and to assist survivors of conflict related sexual violence including through long-term health care, counselling, timely police response, access to justice, and safe accommodation and shelter.

59. We reaffirm the decision of the Council for TRIPS on the Extension of the Transition Period Under Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement for LDCs Members for Certain Obligations With Respect to Pharmaceutical Products until 1 January 2033, and commit to providing financial and technical support to LDCs through technology transfer as obliged under Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement with a view to enabling LDCs to produce life-saving medicines including the vaccine for COVID-19. We call on WTO members to extend the same benefits for twelve years for countries graduated from LDC category.

60. We commit to providing necessary support to LDCs to ensure birth registration for all newborns in LDCs and provide a national identity or social security number to them.

### **Investing in youth**

61. In 2020, 66.9 per cent of the population was below 30 years old. By 2030 one in five of the youth in the world will be born in the LDCs. In 2019, more than one in five of the world's youth were not in employment, education or training (NEET), almost unchanged since 2005. Since young women were already twice as likely to be jobless and not in education nor training than young men, and as women have been disproportionately pushed into inactivity during the pandemic, the COVID-19 crisis is likely to worsen the NEET gender gap among youth.

62. **Targets:** Ensure, by 2030, that all youth achieve literacy and numeracy

Ensure access to lifelong digital learning opportunities for skills development

Increased youth participation in decision making process as well as opportunities for skills development through cooperation mechanisms as provided by north-south and south-south cooperation.

Access to decent employment opportunities, knowledge and skills for all youth in the LDCs

Promote entrepreneurial training to youth including through financial and technical assistance.

### **We agree to take the following actions:**

63. We will strengthen youth participation mechanisms to facilitate young people's engagement in policies and activities that enhance sustainable development efforts. We will increase youth involvement in national sustainable development coordination councils, working with national youth councils, expanding the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme and other opportunities for youth representation, as appropriate, and ensuring that young people contribute to the implementation and review of the Programme of Action.

64. We will adopt an inclusive results-based and employment-generating approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation. We commit to ensuring digital fluency, life-long-learning opportunities, appropriate training including vocational training, entrepreneurship skills, and best opportunities for full employment and decent work for all people, especially youth in the LDCs. We commit to supporting the LDCs to reform and strengthen education systems to allow for the development of skills and talents that are consistent with the demands of the national and global job markets, which include preparing young people for frontier technologies and the new digital age.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

65. T

72. We recognize that migrants make positive contributions to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit, and destination, and to the response and recovery to the crisis caused by COVID-19.

73. **Target:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Enhance the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development

Invest in skills development of migrants and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualification and competences.

**We agree to take the following actions:**

74. We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable

78. Many LDCs have made progress in governance in the past decade. However, more needs to be done and several countries are still in conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2018, 33 million forcibly displaced people originated from LDCs, which is a growing problem acting as a drag on governance appraisals. The average e-government development index developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the delivery of public services in LDCs increased from 0.23 in 2010 to 0.34 in 2020 but remains lower than the world average of 0.6.

79. We reaffirm the importance of the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in Article 2.1 of the United Nations Charter and of broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of LDCs in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance.

80. We express our deep concern that LDCs are hugely under-represented in the global decision-making processes in the economic, social, and environmental fields, which needs to be addressed with top priority.

86. Twenty-four of the 46 LDCs had active conflicts in 2019. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the link between peace, security, stability, and sustainable development. Peace, security, development, human rights, and humanitarian efforts are complementary and need to reinforce one another. Supporting and building partnerships with conflict affected LDCs, through sustained and predictable resources, remains a critical step in achieving peaceful and inclusive societies.

87. **Targets:** Build durable peace and ensure stability, security, and sustainable and inclusive development in LDCs.

Foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence

**We agree to take the following actions:**

90 We must redouble our efforts to resolve and or prevent conflict and commit to strengthening support for LDCs affected by conflict to address country-specific needs and



101 We agree to support LDCs to build capacity to scale up the deployment of and utilization of emerging technologies for the SDGs and incorporate them into the local production of food, manufactured goods, and services for both rapidly growing regional markets as well as global value chains.

102 We commit to strengthening the science-policy interface and expanding LDCs knowledge and understanding of and access to new technology trends by building partnerships and interfaces with academies of science,



**We agree to take the following actions:**

109 We commit to bridging the STI divide and provide financial and technical support and technology transfer to LDCs including through south-south and triangular cooperation to ensure that all LDCs can engage effectively in low emission and climate resilient development that will also protect the lives of our populations, economies and systems.



123 We commit to promoting and supporting the formulation of national strategies aimed at increasing diversification, value addition, efficiency, and competitiveness in the manufacturing, agriculture, and services sectors; and call for enhancing financial and technical support from development partners, international organizations, and multilateral development banks to facilitating the implementation of these strategies.

124 We will create a conducive policy environment for industrial diversification and value addition, including strengthening effo

capacity. The establishment of a secure, reliable, and efficient transport system including rail transport, road transport, seaports, and air transport is critical for LDCs to reduce transport costs, facilitate trade, link to regional and international markets and enhance the competitiveness.

132 **Target:** Significantly expand, upgrade, and maintain all forms of transport infrastructure and closing the missing links, and strengthening the institutional capacities and transport services.

**We agree to take the following actions:**

133 We agree to develop and implement comprehensive national policies for transport infrastructure development and maintenance, encompassing all modes of transportation. We will ensure the transport infrastructure to be climate-resilient that can withstand the impacts of natural disaster, climate change and rising sea levels. In this regard, we will be mobilizing domestic and international resources and share experiences on transport infrastructure development and financing, building institutional capacities and strengthening transport services.

134 We call on development partners, international organizations, regional development banks and the private sector through public-private partnerships, to increase financial and technical support to the efforts of LDCs in transport infrastructure development and maintenance. In this regard, we stress the importance of developing necessary policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development including enhancing technical assistance and capacity building. We will also leverage new and innovative financing sources and new funding mechanisms, including blended finance, green bonds through public-private partnerships.

**b) Energy**

135 Despite the importance of access to reliable energy to achieving structural transformation, LDCs face challenges at three levels in particular, generation, transmission, and utilization of energy and they lack the capacity to mobilize the large amounts of financing that are required to invest in major power generation projects. Only about 53 per cent of the population in LDCs has access to energy, with rates of access in rural areas of only around 10 per cent in some countries. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of reliable and seamless energy access, from health services to the use of information and commTm0 g0 G7nv12 Tf(in )-51



144 We call upon LDCs to create enabling environment including appropriate regulatory frameworks and policy reforms to facilitate private sector investment as well as promoting attractive project pipelines. We also call upon development partners, MDBs, other international and regional organizations, including IRENA, International Solar Alliance and other relevant stakeholders to substantially increase their investments in LDCs, through simplified access process, in developing sustainable, reliable, modern, inclusive and equitable energy systems, including, inter alia, by strengthening energy systems through cross-border grid connections, as appropriate, and to consider incorporating decentralized renewable energy solutions in energy planning, as appropriate, and recognize that energy transition will take different paths in different parts of the world.

145 We commit to the development, dissemination, diffusion transfer and application of environmentally sound technologies and technical know-how to LDCs including advanced energy technologies, cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources with a view to rapid reductions in the cost of new and renewable resources of energy in LDCs.

### **Connecting to global and regional value chains, strengthening their services economy and trade**

146 LDCs are faced with numerous challenges in their efforts to integrate into the regional and global value chains including limited industrial development; low level of productivity and diversification; lack of technology and structural transformation; limited access to trade finance; stringent rules of origin and non-tariff barriers such as various quality standards.

147 **Targets:** Significantly increase the value added and manufactured component of the LDCs exports, with the objective of integrating into the regional and global value chains.

### **We agree to take the following actions:**

148 We call for greater integration of LDCs into the regional and global value chains to enhance their competitiveness and increase diversification and accelerate their structural economic transformation and sustainable development.

149 . We commit to supporting LDCs to significantly increase their integration into the regional and global value chains with a view to enhancing their competitiveness, leap-frogging their development process and driving their productivity growth. We will also support LDCs to their productive capacity, export competitiveness, access to trade finance, skills transfer and connectivity market access, trade facilitation and technology transfer to further integrate LDCs into regional and global value chains.

### **Support private sector development**

150 A dynamic, broad-based, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector is a

trading costs, limited human capital, limited ICT capacities and institutional constraints have limited the growth of the private sector in LDCs.

151 **Target:** Create an enabling environment for private sector development.

Ensure full and equal access to financial services and products for MSMEs, including insurance, and improve financial literacy, especially for women. (IPoAe





category for a fix period of time of at least twelve years after their graduation to ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

164 We commit to rejecting vaccine nationalism

170 We call upon the WTO members to take concrete measures including meaningful preferences for LDCs services and service suppliers in accordance with the WTO decisions in 2011, 2013 and 2015 on the operationalization of the LDCs services waiver and in response to the collective request of those countries and call for strengthening the domestic service capacity in LDCs with a view to making use of existing opportunities as well as any preferences afforded to them through enhanced technical assistance and capacity building.

**Technical assistance and capacity building including through aid for trade**

171 We note that between 2011 and 2019, over USD 100 billion have been disbursed in aid for trade to support LDCs in strengthening infrastructure (61%), building productive capacity (38%) and enhancing trade policy and regulations (2%). After reaching a peak of USD 20 billion in 2018, aid-for-trade commitments to LDCs fell by 19% to USD 16.6 billion in 2019. Although Aid-for-Trade funding to LDCs has grown 13 per cent annually since 2006, reaching \$13.5 billion in 2018, the amount is not sufficient, and the pandemic threatens to slow or reverse this trend.

172 **Target:** Double the share of aid for trade support going to LDCs by 2031 from 2018 level

**We agree to take the following actions:**

173 . We commit to increasing

178 We will provide financial and technical support to LDCs to facilitate and accelerate the negotiations for the accession of LDCs to the WTO.

**Trade-**

185 We call for correcting and preventing trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

186 We will support multilateral negotiations and agreement on fisheries subsidies disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies in accordance with the Doha and Hong Kong Ministerial mandates, and Sustainable Development Goal 14.6.

### **WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)**

187 We note that while the current TFA implementation rate stands at 70.2 per cent for all World Trade Organization members, the implementation rate of LDCs is only 36.8 per cent, as of 10 June 2021. We also take note that 80 per cent of LDCs have already identified their technical assistance needs. We also note that there are several challenges for LDCs to implement the agreement primarily due to capacity constraints in financial, technical and regulatory areas.

188 **Target:** Fully implement the trade facilitation agreement and provide financial and technical support to LDCs.

#### **We agree to take the following actions:**

189 We will implement the trade facilitation agreement to speed up customs procedures; make trade easier, faster and cheaper; provide clarity, efficiency and transparency; reduce bureaucratic hurdles; and use technological advances.

190 . We commit to supporting LDCs with the implementation of TFA, including by providing financial and technical support to least developed countries to enable implementation of the agreement, consistent with the letter and spirit of the trade facilitation agreement. Assistance must not be diverted from support provided in other priority areas of LDCs.

### **E-commerce**

191 We note that the pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital technologies in general - and e-commerce in particular - as tools for continuing economic activity during the crisis. E-commerce in the form of business to business (B2B) and business to consumers (B2C) combined with secure mobile platforms fundamentally and profoundly reduce the matching costs by which buyers and suppliers can meet, connect and create profits within the country and across the borders. This can speed-up economic adjustments to shocks like COVID-19 and many other profound economic, environmental, and geopolitical shocks that a country may face in the coming years. Despite huge potentials, LDCs have not been able to benefit from the opportunities offered by the e-commerce due to lack of necessary digital infrastructure and logistical facilities as well as regulatory and policy frameworks.

192 **Target:** Substantially increase e-commerce in LDCs by strengthening ICT infrastructure and building their capacities to enter into digital value chains.

#### **We agree to take the following actions:**

193 We will promote e-

199 We commit to supporting LDCs efforts in promoting subregional and regional cooperation, including export promotion and improving regional connectivity through trade-facilitating measures, such as joint projects on customs and border procedures, and insofar as possible transport infrastructure and linkages, telecommunications facilities and energy.

200 We will provide assistance to landlocked and small-island LDCs aimed at addressing the challenges of their remoteness from international markets and lack of infrastructure connectivity.

## **V. Addressing climate change, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic, and building resilience against future shocks**

201 The LDCs are especially vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, despite the good practices in addressing these effects by some countries, including installation and use of early warning systems, adaptation solutions in key sectors/systems such as agriculture and food security, water, health, infrastructure and ecosystems, forecast-based financing, integrating climate change risk considerations in development planning, development of risk indices to support different stakeholders, and comprehensive risk management, among others.

202 Among more than 120 countries reporting across all Sendai Framework targets for disaster losses, LDCs account for 48 per cent of livelihood disruptions, 40 per cent of deaths, 17 per cent of economic losses, and 14 per cent of infrastructure damage, although their combined gross domestic product amounts to only 1 per cent of the total; and their combined populations are just 18 per cent of the global population.

203 The COVID-19 pandemic has not only exposed but also amplified LDCs' high degree of vulnerability and the risks of cascading crises. We are concerned that a prolonged economic downturn following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic will adversely impact the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the ability of countries, especially LDCs, to adequately respond to the adverse impacts of climate change.

204 We are deeply concerned that the limited fiscal space and resilience capacity in LDCs seriously constrains their ability to tackle the pandemic and foster sustainable recovery. The investments in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in LDCs have fallen far short of meeting the needs. We are also concerned that climate change impacts are becoming more acute. Food insecurity, water scarcity, land degradation, melting of glaciers, ocean acidification, coastal erosion, damage to infrastructure and assets, pressures on pastferse



countries as direct budgetary support and to increase the resources of relevant regional and multilateral emergency financing facilities and to ease the conditions of access to these facilities.



adaptation needs through the formulation of national adaptation plans and subsequent implementation of the policies, programmes and projects identified by them.

219 We agree to enhance technical assistance to LDCs to develop operational national risk indices and related products that support policy and decision-making by all stakeholders, including national and local governments, private sector business operations, real estate and land planning, insurance industry, and others.

220 We agree further to enhance support to LDCs to strengthen national statistical and planning offices and other relevant authorities for the systemic collection, analysis and validation of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, and to strengthen inter-institutional, inclusive coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis.

221 We underline the need for building and strengthening a multi-hazard early warning system and a comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience building mechanism for each LDC as key instruments to build resilience against and mitigate the impacts of various shocks. We invite the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study involving all relevant UNDS and other entities on the existing arrangements, lessons learned, gap identified and make recommendations on the modalities, terms of reference, institutional mechanism and funding modalities of a multi-hazard early warning system and a comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience building mechanism for LDCs at national and regional levels and submit it to the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly for its consideration.

222 We call for public and private, domestic and international investment, as well as bilateral and multilateral support, to be risk informed and aligned with national and local climate resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies.

223 We commit to enhancing international cooperation and technical assistance and support to LDCs to take urgent and significant actions to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss and prevent extinction of threatened species that are essential for sustainable development.

#### **Access to finance a Q G W H F K Q R O R J \ W R D G G U H V V x F O L P D W H F K D Q J H**

224 While dedicated funds have been set up to assist LDCs in addressing climate change, to date, the scale and pace of available funding and support for LDCs has fallen far short of the required amounts. Most LDCs currently cannot access the international public finance directly due to lack of technical capacity and cumbersome access conditions. Enhanced support is needed to assist LDCs in preparing bankable projects.

225 We note the critical gap in adequate climate finance for LDCs, and commit to improving amounts available, and ease of access, of climate change finance going to LDCs, especially for adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building, and to ensure the systematic monitoring and reporting of all these flows.

226 **Targets:** Deliver on the goal of mobilizing US\$100 billion Climate Finance per year and scale up support to LDCs

Provide 50 per cent of the total share of climate finance provided by all developed countries and multilateral development banks to adaptation and resilience and 50 per cent of the adaptation to particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs

Additional and increased funding for implementation of national adaptation plans of LDCs under the Green Climate Fund and other funds

**We agree to take the following actions:**

227 We agree that donor countries and multilateral, regional and national development banks will significantly increase the volume, quality and predictability of their finance for adaptation priorities identified in national and subnational and sectoral adaptation plans and building resilience in LDCs, and to systematically collect and publish such information.

228 We reaffirm the collective developed country goal to jointly mobilize \$100 billion per year from public and private sources, through to 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation.

229 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

234 We agree to increase our investments in prevention and risk reduction, including risk-informed and resilient infrastructure and public services; the adoption of legislation, policies and standards that regulate and incentivize investors and companies to adopt a risk-informed approach; and for monetary and regulatory authorities to incorporate the impact of disaster and climate risks into regulatory and policy frameworks.

235 We commit to significantly scaling-up existing catastrophe-triggered financial instruments and initiatives such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility and African Risk Capacity and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative, as well as developing and enhancing instruments and derivatives that provide risk insurance and guarantees for where they are most needed, such as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and low-income households.

236 We commit to providing financial and technical assistance and facilitate technology transfer to LDCs to develop and implement national strategies for sustainable use, preservation and protection of the national environmental resources and the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems in line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

237 We call for action by the private sector, including bank and institutional investors, to support environmental, social, and corporate governance issues as well as take climate change into consideration in their investment decisions in LDCs.

## **VI. 0RELOLJLQJ LQWHUQDWLRQDO VROLG DULW\ UHLQYLJRU D tools for risk-informed sustainable development - A march towards sustainable graduation**

238 We acknowledge that LDCs are largely dependent on public resources to finance sustainable development needs and ensure a smooth transition from the least developed countries category. Available resources – domestic and external, public, and private - have not been sufficient to meet growing investment and spending needs. The high reliance of LDCs on external resources, including official development assistance, foreign direct investment, concessional lending, and private flows, such as remittances and portfolio investment, persisted over the past decade. During the IPoA implementation period, external debt has been rising, and it is, in some cases, exacerbated by large costs caused by disasters and structural vulnerabilities. The pandemic and its economic fallout have exacerbated financial vulnerabilities and debt risks in least developed countries that have been building up over the last decade.

239 We welcome progress made over the past decade with respect to graduation and stress that continued support and incentives will be important to accelerate the number of least developed countries reaching the graduation thresholds and for ensuring sustainable and irreversible graduation with momentum.

240 We aim to achieve at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in LDCs and graduated countries from the LDC category.

### **Key Action Areas**

### **Support for domestic resource mobilization and fight of illicit financial flows**

241 We acknowledge that the low tax-to-gross domestic product ratios of LDCs are due to their economic structures, high poverty rates, weak tax administration and the nature of their tax systems. The median tax-to-gross domestic product ratio in LDCs increased very slowly, from 13.3 in 2011 to 16.2 in 2018, with rates lower than 10 per cent in several of them. Efforts to increase government revenue have been under way in many LDCs, including broadening of the tax base and enhancing compliance and transparency, including through digitization of tax systems. Other challenges for LDCs include tax evasion and illicit financial flows.

242 **Target:** Increase tax revenue as a proportion of gross domestic product to at least 15 per cent

Enhance international cooperation for the recovery of stolen assets and their return to the country of origin

### **We agree to take the following actions:**

243 Recognizing the efforts of LDCs to enhance domestic resource generation, we commit to supporting efforts by LDCs towards taxation, savings mobilization and financial inclusion, all of which aiming at sustainable public service delivery, including for marginalized groups, channeling savings to productive investment and to reducing inequalities. We stress the importance of

248 We commit to substantially reducing illicit financial flows by 2030 in order to help LDCs to mobilize resources, including through increased international cooperation to stem corruption and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets and return them to their countries of origin, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to developing their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation, facilitate customs services and investigate and prosecute offences to contribute to the success of efforts to deal with illicit financial flows.

### **Traditional and innovative sources of finance to meet the funding gaps in least developed countries**

249 We note with concern that official development assistance to LDCs by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members declined in real terms over the past decade and the average share of gross national income provided as ODA to LDCs from DAC donors declined from 0.1 per cent in 2011 to 0.09 per cent in 2019. At the same time ODA remained crucial for financing investments for sustainable development in LDCs, while innovative sources of finance, such as blended finance, remained limited in these countries. There is a clear need for much more determined efforts by developed countries to fulfill, and where possible to enhance, their ODA commitment to LDCs.

250 We underline that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation is vital to LDCs, noting that South-South cooperation is not a substitute but a complement to North-South cooperation, particularly in regard to technical assistance, sharing of best practices in terms of their development, especially in areas of productive capacity-building, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation.

251 **Target:** Ensure the fulfilment of all internationally agreed ODA commitments to LDCs.

### **We agree to take the following actions:**

252 We are committed to meeting the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to LDCs in the short term and encourage ODA providers to set a target to provide at least 0.35 per cent of GNI for ODA to LDCs or provide at least 50 per cent of net ODA to LDCs by 2025.

253 We invite development partners to ensure that the allocation of global ODA resources takes into account the structural handicaps and constraints which are unique to LDCs. We call upon development partners to ensure the right balance in the allocation of ODA among various sectors, including economic, social and environmental as well as for building resilience against various shocks and for empowerment of women and to support international coalitions that enable a transition to risk informed, resilient and inclusive development.

254 We call upon the countries of the South to further strengthen their support provided to LDCs in all these areas in a predictable manner along the lines of the outcome document of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

255 We urge development partners to recapitalize multilateral, regional and national development banks and accelerate the timetable for agreeing on a fresh replenishment of funds, including concessional windows of MDBs and

262 We commit to implementing, by 2023, the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the LDCs and the offer to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembl







283 We recognize the need for enhanced support to countries before and after graduation, through appropriate predictable and additional incentives and support measures, including in the following areas:

Technical assistance for preparing and implementing a smooth transition strategy, including capacity development and technical assistance for analysis and identification of support needs

Enhanced availability of credit ratings and risk management measures, including through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

Legal assistance to negotiate market access after trade preferences that are granted based on

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.

287 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. An enhanced monitoring by the Committee for Development Policy should include, among others:

Establishing a crisis response process within the monitoring mechanism to react to crisis 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

### **Availability and use of data**

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293 National-level arrangements are particularly important, as the Programme of Action is owned and led by the LDCs. At the national level, each LDC Government should develop ambitious national implementation strategy of the Programme and integrate the provisions of this Programme of Action into its national policies and development framework and conduct regular reviews, which are country-led and country-driven, with the full involvement of all key stakeholders. Existing country review mechanisms, including those for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, poverty reduction strategy papers, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms should be broadened to cover the review of this Programme of Action and extended to all LDCs. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.

294 We call on the entities of the United Nations Sustainable Development System (UNSDS) to actively support the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, in close cooperation and partnerships with the World Bank and the international financial and development institutions, and to integrate this programme of action into their strategic plans and annual work programmes and reporting at all levels and further calls on the entities of the United Nations Sustainable development system to support the Resident Coordinators in the LDCs and to assist them in the mainstreaming of the Programme of Action into development planning at the country level in a coordinated and cohesive manner.

295 We invite the RC system and the country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and other multilateral institutions, to continue to collaborate with and provide support to national follow-up and monitoring.

296 Development partners should support agreed objectives and policies designed by LDCs on the basis of the Programme of Action that are integrated into existing national development and cooperation frameworks. They should monitor the delivery of their commitments and consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any.

297 At the regional level, the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of this Programme of Action in close coordination and cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations. Inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level. The relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should continue to ensure that the needs and challenges of LDCs are addressed as part of their ongoing work.

298 At the global level, the implementation and monitoring mechanisms established after the IPOA should be strengthened and improved with a view to ensuring timely and effective follow up of the implementation of the Programme of Action including, inter alia, through better stocktaking of policies and measures at the national, regional and sectoral levels; improved substantive support to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the global level; systematic monitoring of relevant developments in other intergovernmental processes and actions by the UN system organizations and interagency processes; and structured support to follow up by the LDCs themselves. The General Assembly should continue to monitor the



305 We invite the

and convene meetings of the focal points biannually to share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the Programme of Action and SDGs into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up; network among the peers; and better understand existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models.

309 With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of Office of the High Representative for the LDC, LLDC, and SIDS and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness to support the LDCs, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to LDCs, we request the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in consultation