



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developing Countries

**Statement of H.E. Dr. Yasin Husban
Minister of Health**

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First of all, I would like to start by thanking the government and people of Turkey for their hospitality. The Turkish government has spared no efforts to ensure the success of this important meeting at all stages of the preparation. Excellent work has also been undertaken throughout the preparatory process by the UN and Member States. Here, my country wishes to express appreciation to HE Ban Ki- Moon the Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra the Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries LDCs as well to Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen of Finland chair of the PrepCom and all the distinguished members of the bureau.

The continuing global financial and economic crisis, the rising prices of energy and food and the challenges posed by climate change have negatively affected all developing countries, LDCs included. These continued challenges threaten to further undermine and even reverse progress in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

While the difficulties that LDCs face are in many respects similar to those of developing countries, they still differ with respect to degree of impact and intensity of the resulting development challenges and by the lack of adequate resources available at their disposal.

It is indeed unfortunate that the situation in the LDCs continues to deteriorate due to the continuing global financial crises. Today and despite their best efforts, LDCs remain lagging behind in meeting most of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals MDGs. Moreover, many of the modest development gains that they have made over the years have now been reversed and if not are threatened to be so.

It is for this reason that our meeting here today in Istanbul and 10 years after having met in Brussels takes on an added importance as it provides a renewed and much needed for impetus to assist LDCs in their efforts.

The goal of our meeting as we all know is to assess the implementation of the Brussels Program of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 and to reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of LDCs and to support them in their efforts to eradicate poverty and to

integrate into the global economy. It is hoped that the new Program of Action that we will be adopting will chart the way forward to support LDCs for the next decade.

As we look back at the Brussels Program of Action, we find that much has been implemented but much also however remains to be achieved. Our goal therefore should be to build on the progress made to date and address the gaps that remain.

In this regard, the Istanbul Program of Action will assist LDCs in their efforts to overcome poverty, promote sustainable development and sustain a high level of economic growth. This it is hoped would help them to address the impacts of the multiple crises and challenges that they face and graduate from the LDC category

The success of the Istanbul Program of Action however will not only depend on the LDCs themselves. The national efforts of LDCs would have to be complemented by supportive programs, measures and policies that aim at expanding their development opportunities. It also requires continued support by their development partners. Official Development Assistance (ODA) consequently remains important for development.

Finally, we look forward to a successful outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs which we hope will assist them to overcome the numerous development challenges they face.