



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 2011

I send my warmest greetings to all those attending the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

This conference has become a critical event that brings together a diverse set of stakeholders to draft a new development framework for the LDCs in the decade to come. These countries face negative social and economic impacts of multiple global crises relating to food, energy, finance, economy, and climate change, and risk losing many of the hard-fought advances they have made in the past 10 years. As parliamentarians, civil society specialists, and representatives from the private sector and United Nations Member States, I urge you to pool your knowledge and expertise to review the progress made since the last conference in 2001, and to chart a course to accelerate progress in the years ahead. Our reinvigorated efforts will be pivotal to ensuring the LDCs are able to engage regionally and globally, sustain growth, and create opportunities for their citizens.

On behalf of our Nation, the United States delegation will affirm our commitment to achieve the goals set forth and urge enhanced global partnership in support of the LDCs. I wish you all the best for a productive conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.