

2010/27

## Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the Brussels Declaration<sup>160</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,<sup>161</sup>

*Recalling also* the declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action,<sup>162</sup> in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development,

*Reaffirming* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2010 on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women”,<sup>163</sup>

*Recalling* Council resolution 2009/31 of 31 July 2009 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 63/227 of 19 December 2008 and 64/213 of 21 December 2009, in which the Assembly decided to convene, at a high level in 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Welcoming* the progress made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels, and noting the outcomes of the Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting and High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue,

*Emphasizing* that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General;<sup>164</sup>
2. *Notes* the economic and social progress of many of the least developed countries in recent years, which has led to a number of them proceeding towards graduation from the list of the least developed countries and some of them being on track to achieving the growth and universal primary enrolment targets of the Programme of Action by 2010;

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<sup>160</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. I

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II.

<sup>162</sup> See General Assembly resolution 61/1.

<sup>163</sup> E/2010/L.8. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/65/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III.

<sup>164</sup> A/65/80-E/2010/77.

3. *Remains concerned*, however, about the uneven and insufficient progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 at a time when the international community has embarked on the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of its implementation, and stresses the urgent need to address areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in many least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

4. *Underlines* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integral approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions encompassing:

- (a) Fostering a people-centered policy framework;
- (b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;
- (c) Building human and institutional capacities;
- (d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;
- (e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;
- (f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;
- (g) Mobilizing financial resources;

5. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management;

6. *Urges* development partners to fully implement in a timely and effective manner commitments made in the Programme of Action and exercise individual best efforts to continue, in line with their commitments, to increase their financial and technical support for its effective implementation, taking into account the need for increased resources to address the structural handicaps and constraints being faced by least developed countries in their development efforts, including through capacity building;

7. *Expresses concern* that, despite efforts to reduce poverty during the decade 2001–2010, the severity and persistence of poverty remains a serious challenge for the least developed countries, and emphasizes that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen global partnership for development and concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication;

8. *Also expresses concern* that the economic and social progress made so far by the least developed countries towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is now threatened by the continuing severe impact of multiple global crises, such as the economic and financial crises, concerns regarding food security, the energy crisis and the adverse impacts of climate change, and resolves to take appropriate policy measures at all levels, both in the short and long term and actions in support of the policies and measures of the least developed countries to enable them to overcome the negative impacts created by these crises;

9. *Recognizes* the important role that foreign direct investment can play in the augmentation of domestic savings, generation of employment and transfer of technology, and encourages appropriate measures to support the least developed countries in attracting inflows of foreign direct investment;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made to address the debt problem of the least developed countries, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, expresses concern that debt sustainability and indebtedness remain serious challenges for the least developed countries, and in this regard stresses the need to continue to take effective measures, preferably within the existing frameworks, to address the debt problems of the least developed countries;

11. *Calls for* an effective implementation of the outcome of the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting concerning least developed countries, welcomes the actions taken by some individual countries since Monterrey towards the goal of full duty-free and quota-free market access for all least developed countries, and calls upon other developed and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so to take steps towards this objective;

12. *Also calls for* an early, ambitious, successful, balanced and development oriented conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations;

13. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizes that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community, and commits to allowing labour migration to meet labour market needs, while complying with relevant national legislation and applicable international instruments;

14. *Encourages strongly* all development partners and other stakeholders, including relevant organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt appropriate policies and strategies, in support of national strategies and programmes with a view to enabling the least developed countries to meet all the Millennium Development Goals targets by 2015;

15. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be convened in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011, in line with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 63/227;

16. *Invites* all development partners and other relevant stakeholders, including Member States, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process, including through the organization of thematic pre-conference and parallel events, in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on least developed countries, in line with previous Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions in this regard;

17. *Expresses* its concern about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund for the least developed countries and while expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions, invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund in a timely manner to support the substantive preparations for the Conference as well as to support the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

18. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul from 30 May to 3 June 2011;

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to ensure follow-up of their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a ten-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, identifying, inter alia, lessons learned and best practices as well structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements and resource gaps in achieving the set objectives of the Programme of Action.

*46th plenary meeting  
23 July 2010*