



BRAZIL

**Preparatory Committee for the Fifth UN Conference  
on the Least Developed Countries**

**Organizational session**

**Statement by Brazil**

**8 February 2021**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Canada on their election as Co-Chairs of the Prep-Com. I would also like to extend our congratulations to the other officers of the Bureau that were elected today. You and all the members of the Bureau can count on Brazil's support during this preparatory process.

As a member of the Group of Friends of LDCs, Brazil recognizes the importance of addressing the special and unique needs and challenges of least developed countries, especially in the current context of global recession, health emergency and growing food insecurity.

Given that the Istanbul Programme of Action drew to a close, it will be of the utmost importance to renew our ambition towards a new programme of action for LDCs for the next 10 years. This should provide guidance for accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in LDCs, within the context of the UN Decade of Action for SDGs.

Brazil will be actively engaged in the preparatory process for the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs, to be held in Doha, next year, in order to ensure additional support, renewed international cooperation and new partnerships in favour of LDCs.

Mr. Chair,

As I have been stressing in a number of meetings in the UN, we must convey particular importance to combatting food insecurity and malnutrition. It is key that we keep global supply chains functioning, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have witnessed, since the onset of the pandemic, trade-restrictive measures applied to trade in agricultural products, emergency medical equipment, and now in vaccines. On our part, since last year Brazil has been taking all necessary measures to keep our trade corridors open, especially for food products and medical supplies. But this is not enough.

We have also been advocating that this is no time for protectionism. Trade barriers still abound in international agricultural trade, in both export and import sides. This is aggravated by massive agricultural subsidies, which jeopardize the environment and block the development of the agricultural sector in developing countries.

Because of the importance of agriculture in developing countries, including in LDCs, and the comparative advantage that many of them have in the production of agricultural goods, this sector could be an engine of economic growth, poverty eradication and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Nowadays, trade barriers in international agricultural trade are effectively exporting hunger and poverty around the world. The Food Systems Summit comes at a timely moment to tackle this issue in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. Chair,

The current global context makes it even more important for developed countries to meet their Official Development Assistance targets, as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The implementation of such targets has never been more urgent. Those targets should be reaffirmed in the new programme of action for LDCs.

Boosting international cooperation to LDCs through the new programme of action will also be of paramount importance. In this sense, Brazil has contributed, over the years, to the development of LDCs through the provision of South-South cooperation. Such initiatives have flourished in areas such as agriculture, education, health, capacity building, strengthening of local markets and technical cooperation, in response to and aligned with the development priorities of countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. The relevance and importance of South-South cooperation was reaffirmed at the Second UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, in Buenos Aires, and Brazil sees it as an important coopera-

tion modality aimed at fostering sustainable development through human and institutional capacity-building and at promoting structural changes to the socioeconomic reality of our partners.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by reaffirming the importance of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs, to be held in Doha, in 2022. We commend Qatar for hosting this very important meeting, which will reassess LDCs special needs and challenges and renew the political commitment of the international community in this respect. Brazil will remain actively engaged in this process.

I thank you.