



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Preparatory Committee

Organizational Session

Monday, 8 February 2021

General Statement

**delivered by H.E. Mrs. Marie Chatardová, Permanent Representative
of the Czech Republic to the United Nations**

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Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Czech Republic. We also align the statement with the one delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Czech Republic is honoured to be elected as member of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. We also congratulate all other fellow members of the Bureau on their election and the co-chairs on their appointment.

Our common task is to make the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries not only successful, but also impactful for the lives of the most vulnerable people in the world living in forty-six least developed countries. The conference should be a major landmark in the efforts of the least developed countries and their development partners on the path to sustainable development.

Since the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action, a notable progress has been achieved by the least developed countries despite many challenges they have to face. In this context, we are pleased to see that some of them met the criteria for graduation from the LDC category and are at various stages of the graduation process which is a key milestone in the progress towards achieving sustainable development that requires support from all.

We are fully aware that the least developed countries will not be able to achieve the sustainable development goals without a scaled up international support in financing and capacity building in particular. We are also fully aware of the negative impacts of the pandemic on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. In the decade of action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there is an urgent need to pay special attention to the commitment to “leave no one behind”.

It is affirmed in the Istanbul Programme of Action that good governance and the rule of law at all levels are essential for sustainable development. The Czech Republic believes that the promotion of good governance is a pre-requisite for intensifying

political and economic relations with partner countries and that promotion of a peaceful and coherent democratic society is an essential presumption of security and stable international relations, and a contribution to the prevention of conflicts and forced displacement.

The Czech Republic's development cooperation strategy is focused on six priority countries, out of which three belong to the group of the least developed countries. In Cambodia, we assist the Government in promoting sustainable management of natural resources, inclusive social development and equal access of women and men to education. Together with our partners in Ethiopia and Zambia, we work in the sector of agriculture and rural development and towards the sustainable management of natural resources.

In addition to bilateral development activities, the Czech Republic is providing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable countries, especially in major disasters and extreme climate events.

We do hope that the upcoming Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will fulfil all its mandates. It should not only take stock of the progress made, address the persistent challenges, but also adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners. We stress the need to enhance partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including private sector, civil society and international financial institutions, to support the least developed countries.

I thank you.

