

THE FIVE DELIVERABLES OF THE DOHA PROGRAMME OF ACTION

FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)



UN-OHRLLS



SUSTAINABLE GRADUATION SUPPORT FACILITY (iGRAD)

Smooth graduation from the LDC category requires careful planning amid challenges like COVID-19 and climate crises. iGRAD supports tailored capacity building for graduating nations so they can preserve their development gains.



INVESTMENT SUPPORT CENTRE

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in LDCs has decreased since 2015, reaching just 1.4% of global FDI in 2019. The DPoA proposes an international investment support center to revitalize investment in the most vulnerable countries.



FOOD STOCKHOLDING MECHANISM

Global food markets are unstable, impacting food security in LDCs. The DPoA calls for exploring LDC-specific food stockholding options and cooperation with regional initiatives to mitigate challenges of food unpredictability.



ONLINE UNIVERSITY

The DPoA proposes the creation of an online university dedicated to providing graduate and post-graduate studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and recently graduated countries.



ENHANCED RESILIENCE BUILDING MECHANISM

LDCs need to increase resilience against their disproportionate vulnerability to disasters despite limited resources. The DPoA calls for improved capacity, financing, and climate adaptation support and address the lack of early warning systems.

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SUSTAINABLE GRADUATION SUPPORT FACILITY (iGRAD)

Enabling graduation of a growing number of Least Developed Countries is an overarching goal of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA). Sixteen countries in the graduation process - seven are due to graduate between now and 2027 and nine have met graduation criteria at least once.

UN system support has been provided to graduating LDCs since 2017 under the aegis of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force, chaired by OHRLLS. However, with COVID-19 and other shocks, graduating countries need extra systemic support to sustain progress.

Smooth transition strategies and development planning and financing supports need to holistically mitigate the potential impacts of the withdrawal of LDC-specific international support measures (ISMs) to help graduating countries on a sustainable path towards the SDGs.

The Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD) is recognised by the DPOA as the operational arm of the Inter-Agency Task Force, and it offers country-led, partnership-based capacity building support in the form of technical assistance and policy analysis and responses for recovery, post-Covid-19.

iGRAD has three main outcomes:

- 1: Strengthened capacities to prepare for graduation and to develop and implement Smooth Transition Strategies.
- 2: Improved capacity to access and utilize non-LDC specific support including transition financing and beyond.
- 3: Effective utilization of South-South Cooperation, and triangular cooperation, dialogue and exchanges on knowledge and country experience.

Tailored to each country context, activities are not predetermined and will be requested by countries on demand, allowing flexibility and adaption to changing circumstances, including domestic and external shocks.

Since 2020, iGRAD pilots by DESA and OHRLLS and supported by the UN system have been supporting Vanuatu Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Solomon Islands.

SEED FUND

USD 20
MILLION



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FOOD STOCKHOLDING MECHANISM

Least Developed Countries face substantial food security challenges owing to their heavy reliance on external food sources, limited financing, and escalating debt.

Hunger afflicts 248.7 million individuals in LDCs, significantly more than a decade ago. In 2020, food imports accounted for 15% of total merchandise imports in LDCs, nearly double the global average. Such dependence exacerbates the risks of hunger and malnutrition.

The Doha Programme of Action recognizes the need to deal with severe food insecurities. In response, the Secretary-General's report, "Food Insecurity in the least developed countries: options for a System of Stockholding and complementary means at the Global, regional and sub-regional levels," proposes a dedicated food reserve system for LDCs to bolster the efforts of existing multilateral organizations.

This proposal was recognized at LDC5 and the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stock Taking Moment (UNFSS+2), underscoring the urgency of operationalizing the LDC5 Food Stockholding Mechanism.

A food stockholding system would significantly bolster the resilience of LDCs to external shocks and climate change impacts. It will provide a safety net for the most vulnerable populations and help prevent food emergencies.

This system contributes to SDG 2 ("end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture") and SDG 1 (ending poverty in all its forms everywhere) by mitigating the adverse effects of food insecurity on the most vulnerable populations.

With an advanced predictive model, the mechanism will channel food and/or money to countries and communities at risk, in close harmony with existing initiatives to amplify and synergies efforts while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

SEED FUND

USD 10
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ONLINE UNIVERSITY

Enrollment and completion rates for tertiary education in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are alarmingly low, posing significant challenges to their structural transformation and sustainable development. The Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs has recognized the critical need to enhance the quality of education, particularly at the tertiary level, by leveraging online education resources. Member states have pledged to explore the feasibility of establishing an online university or similar platforms to offer graduate and post-graduate education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in LDCs and recently graduated countries.

The proposed Online University, as envisioned by the Doha Programme of Action, aims to provide comprehensive support for distance education and open learning, ensuring equitable access for the most vulnerable populations. It will also play a pivotal role in curriculum development, global accreditation, and the creation of a virtual network of educational institutions, fostering scalability and sustainability in the education system.

The Secretary-General is set to submit a report detailing various aspects, including resource requirements and funding sources, to the General Assembly for consideration, underscoring the commitment to address the educational deficits in LDCs. Such an online university holds great potential to efficiently meet the surging demand for higher education, offering a cost-effective and resilient solution to bridge the educational gap.

To actualize the Doha Commitment of establishing an Online University for LDCs, OHRLLS will conduct a feasibility study and secure the necessary resources for its implementation, aligning with the General Assembly's directives. Collaboration with LDCs, development partners, UN agencies (including UNESCO, UNU, ITU, UNITAR, ILO, and UN RCOs), and private sector entities, including universities, will be pivotal in achieving this ambitious educational initiative.

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INVESTMENT SUPPORT CENTRE

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an important source of development finance for the Least Developed Countries and is complementary to domestic resource mobilization and investment as well as official development assistance (ODA). Alongside integration into external trade and value chains, international investment can be an important driver of sustainable economic growth, employment, technological transformation, and productive diversification.

Historically for the LDCs, FDI flows are small and concentrated in a few countries and sectors and despite a slight uptick in 2022, LDCs' global share remains at around 1.6 percent.

The Doha Programme of Action requested the UN Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of establishing a one-stop shop to mobilize support for the investment promotion regime for least developed countries and graduated countries.

To implement the mandate, OHRLLS is undertaking a comprehensive mapping and gaps analysis, consulting with stakeholders, and preparing recommendations.

The Office will work closely with partners in UNCTAD, WAIPA, IDLO, ITC, UNCITRAL, World Bank, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, academia and other service providers. A survey will be shared in September and October, and a consultation will be held on 17 October in the margins of the World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Draft recommendations will be shared with relevant government officials, including in New York, to ensure the project is meeting the mandate of the DPoA, the needs of LDCs, recently graduated countries and the international community.

The Secretary General will publish the study, including recommendations for an International Investment Support Centre for the LDCs, and these recommendations will be discussed during the 78th Session of the General Assembly.

SEED FUND

USD 6.5
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ENHANCED RESILIENCE BUILDING MECHANISM

The LDCs are among the nations that are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change - having contributed the least to the problem. To tackle this, the Doha Programme of Action has given the highest priority to addressing climate change and environmental degradation and building resilience.

The DPoA commits to:

- Increased support in LDCs for adaptation planning and implementation through the formulation of national adaptation plans and subsequent implementation of the policies, programmes and projects identified by them.
- Providing the technical assistance to LDCs to develop operational national risk information systems that support policymaking and decision-making by all stakeholders, including, among others national and local governments, private sector business operations, and the insurance industry; and
- Reinforcing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures in LDCs.

To support the implementation of these commitments, OHRLLS will work with partners to:

- Provide technical assistance to the twenty LDCs in greatest need to prepare national adaptation plans by COP29 so they may begin to implement them including related adaptation policies, programmes and projects;
- Provide technical assistance to LDCs on financial risk management especially as related to disasters, and prepare THEM to engage with a consortium of leading companies from the insurance sector with a view to closing the huge gap in insurance coverage;
- Identify gaps in early warning systems in LDCs, undertake related advocacy to address the gaps, and share experience and best practice among LDCs, as a complementary contribution to the work underway under the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for all Initiative.

**USD 10
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