

**FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (PART 1)
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TAYE ATSKESSELAASSIE AMDE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UN
THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022**

Check against delivery

**Your Excellency Sheik Mohammed Bin Abdurahman al Thani,
Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Fifth UN Conference
on the LDCs;**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of the
Republic of Malawi;**

Mr. Secretary-General;

Excellencies;

At the outset, let me express my appreciation to the LDC 5 Preparatory Committee, the Government of the State of Qatar and the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs (OHRLLS) for their continued support to the process.

My delegation is pleased that the Doha Program of Action is adopted today. The adoption is timely and pertinent for a number of reasons.

First, the LDCs continue to face a multitude of tides that are reversing some of the developmental gains achieved over the past decades. The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt this group of countries immense costs and drained the momentum we had in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Second, restricted fiscal policy options have impeded us from putting forward solid recovery plans. Attempts to finance medium and long-term investments continue to add up to debt stress. Rising prices of commodities in the international market is a worrisome trend as many of our countries heavily depend on imports.

Moreover, climate change continues to test the resilience of LDCs. In my country alone, over 20 million people are exposed to a stern drought due to lack of sufficient rainfall for three consecutive years.

We, therefore, believe that the adoption of the Doha Program of Action should be taken as a rallying ground to bring the LDCs out of the difficult circumstances we find themselves in. As a comprehensive program, it provides for measures that can contribute to a major improvement in the economic, social and environmental areas.

Mr. President,

Poverty alleviation in the Least Developed Countries as our highest aspiration and goal requires meaningful partnership in development spheres without other political considerations.

Hence, we earnestly call on development partners as well as the UN Development System to scale up their support for a successful implementation of the Program of Action.

Finally, **Mr. President**, we look forward to the second part of the Doha conference to be held next year.

I thank you!