

**Preparatory Committee
for the Fifth United Nations Conference
on the Least Developed Countries
Organizational session
New York, 8 February 2021**

**Informal paper
Annotations to the provisional agenda**

The organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be convened on 8 February 2021 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, pursuant to paragraph 49 of General Assembly resolution 75/227. The Preparatory Committee will elect its bureau, agree on its agenda and other organizational matters, and discuss substantive preparations for the Conference.

1. Election of the Co-Chairs

The organizational session of the Preparatory Committee will be opened by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee.

2. Adoption of the agenda of the organizational session.

The provisional agenda of the organizational session has been drawn up by the Secretariat in keeping with traditional practice.

3. Election of officers of the Bureau

Following consultations with regional coordinators and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/232A, the bureau of the Preparatory Committee should be composed of 10 members, namely the two Co-Chairs, eight Vice-Chairs, with account being taken of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. Furthermore, Qatar, as the host country of the Conference, and Malawi, as the Chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries, should be fully associated with the work of the bureau as ex officio members.

4. Adoption of the agenda of the Preparatory Committee and other organizational matters

The Preparatory Committee, at its organizational session, may wish to adopt the agenda for its substantive sessions and take decisions concerning the organization of its work. Decisions may include the rules of procedure to be applied to the work of the Preparatory Committee and a possible decision to permit the adoption of decisions by silence procedure in the case that the Preparatory Committee is unable to convene in-person meetings.

5. Organizational preparations for the Conference

The Preparatory Committee is expected to consider the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference.

As decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/242, the Conference has the mandate to:

- (a) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;
- (b) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;
- (c) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework;
- (d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action, in addition to domestic resources, in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels.

Qatar, in its capacity as host country of the Conference, will provide a briefing on the status of preparations for the Conference.

6. General statements

Delegations will have the opportunity to deliver general statements at the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee. Statements should be limited to seven minutes__ for delegations speaking on behalf of a groups of States and to five minutes for individual statements. Details on how to inscribe will be circulated separately.

7. Other business