



Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Group of LDCs

Sunday, March 5, 10:15-12:00

Venue: Plenary Hall

Theme: A New Generation of Partnerships for Progress

Background

The Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration of the Least Developed Country category will be held on the opening morning of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), immediately after the high-level opening. This will be a key moment to set the tone and ambition for the entire proceedings.

The commemoration event is being organised in pursuance of UN General Assembly resolution 74/232, which invited Qatar to host a segment during LDC5 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Group of Least Developed Countries and encourages Member States to participate.

The category of least developed countries (LDCs) was established in 1971 by the UN General Assembly with a view to attracting special international support for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the UN family. Since then, the international community has set concrete and quantifiable support measures for LDCs in the field of Official Development Assistance (ODA), trade, climate change, technology transfer and related fields.

The global development landscape has changed in those fifty years. Ongoing crises such as COVID-19, climate change and conflict threaten to roll back many years of hard-won progress in LDCs.

This confluence of factors provides an opportunity – and highlights the necessity – for the international community to review the long development experience of the LDCs and catalyse a renewed trajectory. This commemoration event is an opportunity to do just that and ensure LDC5 is established as a major moment of delivery for the most vulnerable group of countries.

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Programme

Chair	President of the Conference (Qatar)
Opening film	LDC5: A New Generation of Partnerships for Progress
Welcome address	Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary-General and High Representative and Secretary-General of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs
Statement	H.E. Ms. Mariam Chabi Talata Zime Yerima, Vice-President of the Republic of Benin (former LDC chair): <i>Structural transformation and resilience building at the heart of LDCs' progress</i>
Keynote Speech	H.E. Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha Prakash, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation of Nepal (former and incoming LDC chair): <i>A vision for the future of the LDCs</i>
Musical interlude	Live performance from Yemeni Musicians
Special Address	H.E. Ms. Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia: <i>Addressing challenges and harnessing potentials through partnerships for sustainable development of LDCs</i>
Statement	H.E. Ms. Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, Minister of Education of Qatar: <i>Education at the heart of LDCs' progress</i>
Live performance	Cultural performance by Nigerian musicians
Statement	H.E. Mr. Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development of Canada: <i>A New Generation of Global Partnerships for LDCs</i>
Musical finale	Live performance from Tanzanian dancers