

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the
United Nations at the First Part of the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed
Countries
New York, 17 March 2022**

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your well-deserved election.

Please be assured, Mr. President, of Nepal's full support in the discharge of your important responsibilities.

We are convening at a time when the world particularly the LDCs are shattered by multiple crisis mainly COVID-19 pandemic, economic meltdown and climate change.

In the middle of these crises, the adoption of Doha Programme of Action brings flicker of hope for the LDCs who are furthest behind in the tier of socio-economic development.

For the successful preparation of DPOA, Ambassador Fatima and Ambassador Rae and their able team genuinely deserved our deep appreciation.

As a member of the core negotiating team of the draft DPoA, I would like to appreciate Malawi's leadership role. Similarly, I thank the G77 and China for their support. Equally, I appreciate other partner countries for their constructive engagement and flexibility throughout the process.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar, the host of the LDC5, for their commitment to making the Conference a success.

I commend USG and High Representative of the OHRLLS, and the diligent team for their excellent works and preparation for the Conference.

Mr. President,

As a guiding document of development trajectory of LDCs for the next decade, DPoA provides a clear pathway for both the LDCs and development partners to achieve accelerated economic development in LDCs in the true spirit of leaving no one behind. We must remember that the LDCs are the battleground on which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be won or lost.

The DPOA recognizes the multiple structural challenges of LDCs for their economic transformation and secures renewed commitments from the development partners to support the LDCs through, inter alia, fulfilling all internationally agreed goals and targets related to respective

official development assistance commitments, market access, debt relief, technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity-building.

Strong global partnership on the principles of leaving no one behind is critical for LDCs.

Last time, we missed our target in IPOA; this time, we must achieve the target of DPOA to enable 15 additional LDCs to meet the graduation criteria by 2031.

DPOA includes several other commitments such as doubling Aid for Trade, DFQF market access, preferential Rules of origin, climate financing, post-graduation support measures among others.

It is evidently clear that the success of DPoA depends on the solidarity and cooperation among the LDCs and the development partners.

Against this backdrop, I would like to highlight the following few points for its effective implementation:

First, there must be synergy between climate action, recovery package from COVID-19, DPoA implementation and SDGs attainment.

Second, special attention should be given to the countries in the graduation pipeline and those that have recently graduated to ensure their smooth, sustainable, and irreversible graduation.

Third, development partners must meet their commitments to spend 0.15-0.20% of GNI as ODA to LDCs. Similarly, development partners should repurpose their unused newly allocated Special Drawing Rights to avail LDCs to use these funds to reap maximum economic benefits.

Fourth, our development partners should fulfil their commitments in terms of market access, debt relief, technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity-building, and aid for trade for LDCs.

Fifth, other action areas such as enhancing international trade in the LDCs to support their growth and their share of global exports as well as tackling climate change and building resilience to future shocks must be addressed collectively.

Finally, Mr. President, adoption of DPoA is the demonstration of our collective commitments for the sustainable development of the LDCs.

To translate these collective commitments into results, we must gear up our collective efforts for its effective implementation.

Thank You.