

**The 1st Plenary Session of the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs
for the Adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs**

**Statement by Counsellor Byungseok Yoo,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN
10:00-13:00, Thursday, 17 March 2022, UN General Assembly Hall**

Thank you, Mr. President.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, my delegation would first like to express its deep appreciation to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) as well as Bangladesh and Canada, the Co-Chairs of the LDC5 Preparatory Committee, for their tireless efforts in establishing the Doha Programme of Action.

Recognizing the structural challenges and constraints as well as the importance of building resilience against new threats in the LDCs, particularly those caused by COVID-19 and climate change, we welcome the [consensus] adoption of the new Programme of Action for the next decade.

The Doha Programme of Action sets concrete and tangible targets and commitments on a range of issues. They include investing in people in the LDCs; leveraging science, technology, and innovation; enhancing international trade and regional integration; addressing climate change; and strengthening resilience against COVID-19.

It is indeed ambitious but necessary since the 1.1 billion people spread over the 46 LDCs have been the worst hit amid the global pandemic, and the hard-won

progress achieved over the last few decades has been unraveled.

Therefore, we must focus on the full implementation of the new Programme of Action and concrete deliverables to help the LDCs tackle the multifaceted challenges that they are confronted with. We know where we want to go and what we have to do, and how we must do it. The Doha Programme of Action has defined the parameters of a renewed and reinvigorated global partnership for the LDCs, so now is the time to muster our solidarity and support for them.

The Republic of Korea was once one a poverty-stricken LDC. But with the assistance of the international community, as well as our own efforts, we were able to overcome extreme poverty and achieve rapid growth. Joining international efforts to build back better, we will do our part in taking meaningful steps towards concrete measures that make a difference for the LDCs, sharing both our own successes and the lessons we have learned.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by extending my delegation's sincere appreciation to the Government of Qatar for hosting the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs in Doha next year. We look forward to a successful meeting that convenes the highest possible level of government leaders to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to ensure that the most vulnerable among us are not left behind.

Thank you. /End/

(Limit : 3mins)