



LDC5
5TH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

High-level Thematic Round Table 1
Investing in people to leave no one behind

Summary of proceedings (maximum 600 words)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Roundtable was attended by Heads of States and Government, Ministers and representatives from civil society

It addressed the multiple dimensions impacting human development in the least developed countries. Achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals is inextricably linked to implementing the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs, and to addressing their structural constraints and promote sustainable development. Achieving the objectives of the DPoA will directly contribute to addressing the key challenges of our time: climate change, poverty reduction, eliminating hunger and malnutrition, and fostering peace and stability. The rapid development of the LDCs represents an opportunity, not just for these countries, but the whole world.

Participants highlighted the impact of compounding crises including COVID, conflict, and climate change. Together this toxic mix threatens to reverse decades of progress, pushing tens of millions of people into extreme poverty.

Various delegations mentioned the importance of establishing a food stockholding system and complementary measures for the least developed countries. It was also

noted that social protection systems should support LDCs to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized and could also assist in efforts towards hunger eradication.

Several delegations highlighted the role of inclusive and equitable quality education, including improved digital skills and literacy. It was stressed that education is a human right, and a sustainable development goal on its own. It is also a vital means to reducing poverty, advancing gender equality, addressing climate change, and has a fundamental role in achieving all the SDGs.

The women and girls, youth, businesses, and farmers of countries represent vast potential. It was emphasized that the Least Developed Countries represent an unprecedented opportunity to address the most fundamental challenges of our world. Addressing the gender gap in employment is at the core of decent work. Women's economic empowerment boosts productivity and increases economic diversification and income equality..

Systemic factors and the structural features that hamper the development of the least developed countries should be addressed, including through building an international economic and financial system that ensures that everyone can enjoy the prospects of a better future.

The Doha Programme of Action constitutes an opportunity to shift gears and drive towards transformative change. We have a clear blueprint for the international community on what needs to be done by all stakeholders. This is not a vague wish list, it gives the whole international community a plan of what to do, as well as when and how.

As new humanitarian crises unfold in different corners of the world, we must make a concerted effort to make sure that the least developed countries remain a priority for multilateral organizations and development partners. But bringing hope and opportunity to the most vulnerable requires good governance at all levels, strong institutions and the rule of law.

Delegations expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, and made some announcements that demonstrated that commitment. Finland announced that it would support the annual hosting of the LDC Future Forum to identify and share innovative solutions to the challenges facing the LDCs. Germany also announced that it would increase by €200 million in 2023 for financing for least developed countries.