



National Statement

Presented by

Permanent Representative of Tuvalu

H.E Mr. Samuelu Laloni

at

The Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference
on the Least Developed Countries

February 8, 2021

New York

Distinguished Co-Chairs

Madam Under-Secretary- General

Excellencies,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you Co-Chairs – Her Excellency Ms. Rabab Fatima, PR of Bangladesh, His Excellency Robert Keith Rae, PR of Canada - and bureau members of the Preparatory Committee for your successful election.

I wish also to convey our gratitude to Madam Under-Secretary-General Fekita Utoikamanu for convening this timely meeting and for all the preparations by the Secretariat ensuring that this organizational meeting takes place even under these rather challenging circumstances. My delegation also expresses its appreciation to the Government of Qatar, for its valuable support and hosting of the LDC 5th Conference.

Co-Chairs,

My delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for putting together the draft provisional agenda for the First Preparatory Meeting in good time, so members have ample time to go through it. I am glad to note that there will be a more interactive discussion on the substantive preparations in the first preparatory committee's meeting, and we look forward to contributing to it

Co-Chairs,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of AOSIS and the statement delivered by Malawi on behalf of the LDCs.

The LDC5 in Doha will be a pivotal opportunity to agree on a development agenda for LDCs. A development agenda that is informed by lessons learnt from the implementation of the IPoA. In this regard, we look forward to discussing a renewed Plan of Action with development partners and the UN system that commits to more ambitious targets, as we now must also deal with the covid19 pandemic.

We believe that smooth graduation and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the overarching framework for the LDCs to achieve sustainable development and to free them from poverty. To do these, LDC would need structured and tailored assistance to protect existing gains,

and at the same time build their resilience to climate change and future disasters including pandemics. Promoting investment in resilience building based on locally owned initiatives will be crucial if LDCs can achieve the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development.

Co-Chairs

To conclude, my delegation looks forward to fully engage in the upcoming preparatory meetings and I wish to reaffirm our full support as you both steer our preparatory work under these unprecedented and challenging circumstances.