



**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small
Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

Statement by

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**Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States**

**Organizational Session of the Preparatory Committee
of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs**

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Conference room 1, 2 and 3

Draft statement under agenda 5: Organizational preparations for the Conference.

Distinguished Co-Chairs
Excellencies
Delegates

The Fifth UN Conference on LDCs is expected to be the most high profile and comprehensive development conferences of this decade.

It is now up to us to deliver our best efforts in the preparations for the Conference.

We must ensure that the depth and breadth of the challenges LDCs face are well understood and brought to the attention of the global community.

OHRLLS is the focal point for the LDC5 Conference.

A comprehensive preparatory process at national, regional and global levels has been planned for and is already ongoing.

The preparatory process encompasses three connected broad streams of work.

First: conferences and dialogues;

Second: reports and analytical works and

Third: advocacy and outreach activities.

Apart from the intergovernmental and inter-agency tracks, all other stakeholders will also be fully involved in the Conference. The stakeholders include parliamentarians, private sector, academia, civil society and the youth. The South-South track will also be an important part of the Conference.

Under the **first stream of conference and dialogues**, a series of events are already laid out. Several of them have already taken place including on COVID-19, employment and decent work, food security, ICTs and the broadband connectivity. A number of other important events are in their process of preparation.

The Africa Regional Review meeting, which also covers Haiti, will be held in virtual format from 22 to 26 February 2021. OHRLLS co-organizes the meeting with the government of the Republic of Malawi and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with various other UN agencies.

The Asia-Pacific review, which will also include Yemen, will tentatively take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh ~~from the 18th to 22nd April~~ the dates for which are under consideration, and will be jointly organized with Bangladesh and the UN-ESCAP. The Dhaka meeting will focus on graduation in the context of COVID-19 as 9 out of 11 Asia-Pacific LDCs are at some point in the graduation pipeline.

A joint thematic event of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC will be held on 18 June 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall. The theme of the event is “Accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in LDCs to leave no one behind in the context of COVID-19”.

An academic conference will be held in Helsinki, Finland from 30 August-1 September 2021. We requested papers on LDC issues from researchers and academia and received around 1000 abstracts of which around 70 were selected to develop full papers. The event is expected to provide new thinking and perspectives on key thematic areas.

OHRLLS also plans for a retreat for the Ambassadors of LDCs and Friends of LDCs to discuss the elements of the next Programme of Action for LDCs.

Most importantly, the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) which will be held from 24-28 May 2021 and 26-30 July 2021 in New York, will undertake detailed discussions on the challenges and priorities of LDCs and negotiate the outcome of LDC5.

The UN system has been contributing to the Conference and its preparatory process. Four rounds of Inter-Agency meetings have already taken place. Several agencies have confirmed activities they will be working on in their respective areas of competence.

Under the **analytical work stream**, OHRLLS undertakes substantive work focusing on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and various thematic areas of priorities to LDCs.

28 LDCs have already submitted their national reports. A report has been prepared on the lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the IPoA in LDCs.

The report is a synthesis of national reports submitted by LDCs. The report is significant in highlighting the challenges and the success stories and the way forward to overcome challenges.

OHRLLS has prepared a further report that focuses on UN system support for the implementation of the IPoA. The report highlights how the work of the UN and the broader multilateral system must address persistent structural challenges and vulnerabilities that LDCs face.

The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the IPoA of this year will focus on the ten-year implementation of the IPoA.

The Office is also in the process of finalizing the flagship report "the State of LDCs 2021" which will focus on building back better in response to COVID-19.

Outcomes of all the intergovernmental events along with the analytical work by the UN system and others coordinated by OHRLLS will form the basis of the outcome of LDC5.

The Group of LDCs, led by Malawi, along with other countries, will be working on the elements of the next Programme of Action.

The **third stream** of our work is advocacy and communications. In short, the goal is put LDC5 on the map, to ensure its visibility on the international calendar so that we secure the highest level of attendance. This is a must if we want to get a sustainable and robust ambition out of the Conference.

The Conference will be afforded the great facilities provided for by the Government of Qatar.

Given the wide range of technology available, interactive experiences to showcase the talent, ideas and cultures of the LDCs will be accessible to all in attendance.

So, in closing, allow me to make a call for support to the preparatory work by OHRLLS.

Your contributions to the OHRLLS trust funds, especially with a focus on generation and dissemination of in-depth knowledge on LDC priorities, stepped up preparatory

activities for stakeholders, especially civil society, youth and journalists and enhanced advocacy would greatly help preparations.

I thank you.