



The Republic of the Sudan

**Annual Ministerial Meeting
of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**

**Statement by:
HE Dr. Hiba Mohamed Ali Ahmed
Acting Minister of Finance and Economic Planning**

Thursday, 17 September 2020

Your excellencies,

It is with great honor that I address this important convening on the status of LDCs. The overarching goals of the Istanbul Plan of Action and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are to overcome the structural challenges faced by LDCs, in order to expedite the world's poorest countries graduation from the LDC category—all within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since coming to office one year ago, the civilian-led Transitional Government of Sudan, under the leadership of HE Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, has been working in the context of one of the most challenging economic outlooks in recent memory, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst floods in over a century.

Despite this, we have begun Sudan's path towards graduation from the LDC category. The first step is realizing a just and lasting peace throughout Sudan and putting an end to decades of conflict that have stalled our path towards development.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, being cognizant of the graduation criteria, has initiated a three-year macroeconomic policy program that focuses on our commitments towards health, education, social protection, and environmental protection, along with our emphasis on clean energy and rural development. In this regard, the 2020 budget was framed within the SDG framework for the first time in Sudan's history. We also signed a Staff Monitored Program with the IMF to resolve the structural imbalances in the macroeconomy.

Your excellencies,

The Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs—to be convened in 2022 in Doha—will be an important opportunity to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action. It will allow the global community to share best practices, effective policies and lessons learned and allow for additional international engagement and support within a renewed partnership between development partners and LDCs.

The Transitional Government of Sudan is working diligently towards achieving our goals in order to improve the lives of all Sudanese. We will continue to support the international development agenda and play our meaningful role.

We fully endorse the Draft Ministerial Declaration of LDCs.

I thank you for your time.