



BRAZIL

**ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)**

Statement by Brazil

17 September 2020

Mr. Chairman,

I will deliver this statement on behalf of our Minister of Foreign Relations, Ernesto Araújo, who would have been delighted to join us today, but had to attend another commitment.

As a member of the Group of Friends of LDCs, Brazil recognizes the special needs and challenges of least developed countries, which have been reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Given the current global context, it is quite worrisome that we have only a few months left to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action for this decade.

The severe socioeconomic impacts related to the Covid-19 pandemic, caused by lockdowns and restrictions on movement and trade, make it even more important for all stakeholders to strive to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, in order to assist LDCs in overcoming their structural challenges.

The growing food crises around the world are one example of such severe socioeconomic impacts. Brazil is alarmed by the growth of the number of people affected by severe food insecurity around the world, as shown in the 2020 Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, prepared by FAO together with IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. This dire situation may hit some LDCs hard in the forthcoming months.

Thus, it is of paramount importance to ensure that global supply chains keep functioning without obstacles, especially for basic food products and medical supplies. On our part, Brazil has designated food and nutrition as essential services, in order to keep our trade corridors open. We strongly advocate that this is no time for protectionism or unreasonable measures of domestic support that subsidize inefficiency and distort food prices and the agri-food chains.

The current global context makes it even more important for developed countries to meet their Official Development Assistance targets, as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

International cooperation is also of paramount importance. In this sense, Brazil has contributed, over the years, to the development of LDCs through the provision of South-South cooperation. Such initiatives have flourished in areas such as agriculture, education, health, capacity building, strengthening of local markets and technical cooperation, in response to and aligned with the development priorities of countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. The relevance and importance of South-South cooperation was reaffirmed at the Second UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, in Buenos Aires, and Brazil sees it as an important cooperation modality aimed at fostering sustainable development through human and institutional capacity-building and at promoting structural changes to the socioeconomic reality of our partners.

Allow me to conclude by stressing the importance of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs, to be held in Doha, in 2022. We commend Qatar for hosting this very important meeting, which will reassess LDCs special needs and challenges and renew the political commitment of the international community in this respect. The LDCs Ministerial Declaration that will be adopted today may provide important inputs to all actors involved in this process.

I thank you.