

Brief Concept Note

Title of Event

Annual Ministerial Meeting of LDCs

Suggested Date

17 September 2020 (9:00am-1:00pm)

Background

The Group of LDCs meets at the Ministerial level once in a year on the side-lines of the High-level week of the General Assembly. Due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19, the meeting of this year is taking place virtually. The Minister Meeting provides strategic guidance for the full, effective and timely implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and articulates key priorities of LDCs in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing session of the General Assembly.

Issues and Significance

The Ministerial Meeting of LDCs is attended by the Ministers of LDCs comprising 47 countries and the “Friends of LDCs” comprising 27 countries from the traditional donors and the emerging South. This year, the Ministerial Meeting is going to be especially significant as Ministers, among others, will discuss about the challenges posed by COVID-19 and how they are struggling to cope with the impacts; their priorities and ambitions from the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Qatar in 2022; and their expectations from the United Nations in the context of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) 2020 and the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations. As LDCs represent the poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world, the Deputy Secretary-General’s participation will signal a strong support of the United Nations in favour of them.

Outcome

The Ministerial Meeting adopts the Ministerial Declaration of LDCs.

Draft Program

The Programme would include (i) an opening session with statements by the Minister from the Chair of LDCs, Deputy Secretary-General, PGA, President of the ECOSOC, a Minister from Qatar (host country of the LDC-V) and head of the World Bank and IMF (tbc); (ii) general statements by the Ministers of LDCs and Friends of LDCs; and (iii) adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.