

Speaking Notes for

Notes d'allocution de

**The Honourable Ahmed
Hussen**

L'honorable Ahmed Hussen

***Minister of International
Development***

***Ministre du Développement
international***

**Annual Ministerial Meeting of Least Developed
Countries**

21 September 2023, 15:00-18:00

UN Headquarters

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- Bonjour, good afternoon.
- Six months ago, at the LDC5 Conference in Qatar, Canada affirmed our commitment to work in partnership with the Least Developed Countries to advance the **Doha Programme of Action**.
- Since then, many countries have gathered in Paris at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact.
- And in Nairobi, for the Africa Climate Summit.
- At each of these events, we have heard from LDCs about the need to evolve our partnerships, and work together on global challenges.

- About the need to invest more in locally-led development.
- And about the need for concrete reforms to the international financial architecture, to meet the needs of developing countries.
- **Cette semaine, à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, il est encourageant de constater que l'élan en faveur de ces priorités continue à se renforcer.**
- **C'est bien connu que nous avons dû faire face à des crises successives ces dernières années, ces derniers mois et ces derniers jours.**

- **La COVID-19, les changements climatiques et les conflits.**
- **Le fardeau insoutenable de la dette, l'inflation élevée, l'insécurité alimentaire et l'augmentation des coûts de l'énergie.**
- **Nous savons que les répercussions de ces défis se sont fait ressentir de manière inégale, et que les pays les moins avancés ont été les plus durement touchés.**

- When it comes to sustainable development, it is undeniable that we are not where we wish to be.
- At the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda, we must renew our ambition and resolve as we tackle the work ahead of us.
- And I believe that the work we do today, in partnership with the Least Developed Countries, cuts to the very heart of the Sustainable Development Goals – to those common threads of dignity and compassion that underpin it all.
- That is why Canada invests more than half of our bilateral international assistance in LDCs.
- For example, Canada contributes to the **Least Developed Countries Fund**, which helps the world's most vulnerable countries adapt to the effects of climate change.

- And through our partnership with the **World Bank**, we support the empowerment of adolescent girls in West and Central Africa...
- By addressing norms and attitudes that contribute to gender inequalities...
- And by working on issues like sexual and reproductive health and rights...
- And child, early and forced marriage.

- We know that these investments are a powerful tool to help the people who are furthest behind lift themselves out of poverty.
- People for whom the right opportunity can truly transform a life, a family, a community – and, in time, a country.
- We look forward to continuing to work together to make the Doha Programme of Action a reality.
- Thank you, merci.