



Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Least Developed Countries

21 September 2023

3:00-6:00 PM

UN Conference Room 4

Theme:

Translating the Ambitious Doha Commitments into Tangible Actions to Accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Background

The first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) held in March 2022 adopted the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the least developed countries for the decade 2022 to 2031. The DPOA was adopted at a very crucial time of cascading crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing geopolitical tensions and climate crises along with their lingering effects, which have severely impacted the group of LDCs. The DPOA represents the renewed and strengthened commitments from both the least developed countries and their development partners for sustainable recovery, and building resilience against future shocks in the most vulnerable countries.

The Doha Programme of Action is an ambitious blueprint for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that has specified key six priority areas: a) investing in people in the least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind, b) leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the SDGs, c) supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity, d) enhancing intranational trade of least developed countries and regional integration, e) addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development, and f) mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation. DPoA also specifies five concrete deliverables that would facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action and help least-developed countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries is a crucial platform for LDCs to discuss and strategize on pressing issues related to

development, economic growth, and sustainable progress. This year, the Ministerial Meeting assumes special significance as we stand at the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is seriously jeopardized by the cascading and interlined crises. However, it is encouraging that the international community has expressed its resolve to leave no one behind in the process of sustainable development as envisioned in DPoA. The least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries to emergent shocks along with persisting historical inequalities, need international support and commitment more than ever. In this context, this year's ministerial meeting will discuss the plans and strategies for mainstreaming and the timely implementation of the Doha Programme of Action which will eventually complement the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Meeting

The annual Ministerial Meeting will take place on 21 September 2023 on the margins of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Meeting will be attended by the Foreign Ministers and representatives of the members of the Group of LDCs and the members of the Friends of LDCs.

The Meeting will provide an opportunity for the members of the Group to share the challenges they have been facing due to ongoing crises and possible plans to cope with them. Equally, it will provide an opportunity for the Friends of LDCs to acquire recent updates on how LDCs have been coping with the impacts of crises as well as where they are in the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Key Objectives

The key objectives of the Meeting are as follows:

1. Sharing successful policies, initiatives, and best practices in successful implementation of the DPoA and to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Reviewing progress in the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and identifying major challenges in the implementation of DPoA and the SDGs.
3. Identifying appropriate policies, strategies, measures and recommendations necessary for addressing the challenges faced in the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and the SDGs.
4. Building political cohesion, unity and solidarity among the LDCs and their development partners to protect and promote the interests of the least developed countries.

Expected Outcome:

1. The meeting will provide an opportunity for LDCs to engage at the higher political level to build momentum towards the successful implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda
2. The Meeting will adopt a ministerial declaration as an outcome document reaffirming the commitment to the development of the LDCs and outlining specific goals and actions to be taken collectively in the upcoming year.
3. The outcomes and recommendations from the Annual Ministerial Meeting will serve as a roadmap for the development of LDCs in the coming year.
4. The meeting will also contribute to the discussions of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.