UN-OHRLLS

High-level midterm review (MTR) of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in March 2027

COUNTRY-LEVEL PREPARATIONS

ANNOTATED OUTLINE FOR THE NATIONAL REPORTS

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Background and objectives

The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA)[1] for the Least Developed Countries was adopted at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in March 2022 and endorsed by the General Assembly in April 2022 (A/RES/76/258).

The DPoA for the Decade 2022–2031 represents a comprehensive and ambitious framework with renewed and strengthened global commitment to support the 44 least developed countries. Its overarching objective is to ensure rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, build resilience against future shocks, eradicate extreme poverty, promote structural transformation, and support sustainable and irreversible graduation from the LDC category. The DPoA is anchored in the principles of ownership, leadership, mutual accountability, and global solidarity, and aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and other relevant internationally agreed frameworks.

In line with the DPoA and the Roadmap for the Implementation of the DPoA[2], the Government of Qatar has generously agreed to host a comprehensive global high-level Midterm Review (MTR) of the implementation of the Programme of Action in the first quarter of 2027. The review will assess progress made, identify gaps and emerging challenges, and come up with renewed commitments for the remainder of the decade. The global review will build on the national and regional reviews of the implementation of the DPoA. The national reviews are vital for ensuring national ownership, contextual relevance, and stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the DPoA, while serving as the foundation for regional and global reviews.

The national reports to be prepared by LDCs, which are based on national reviews, will provide a country-led assessment of progress made towards the 35 priority targets across the six priority areas of the Doha Programme of Action. The national reports should highlight achievements, best practices, innovations, and lessons learned, as well as identify constraints, capacity gaps, and make concrete recommendations to accelerate implementation. Importantly, these inputs will contribute to a global synthesis report, which will guide strategic discussions and decision-making by LDCs and their development partners.

The objectives of the national reports are:
- Assess implementation across six DPoA priority areas,
- Document achievements, challenges and innovations,
- Analyze progress towards LDC graduation, and
- Inform future partnerships and policy adjustments.

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[1] *Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for the Decade 2022-2031: Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries*

[2] *Roadmap of the DPoA: dpoa_roadmap_2024_draft.pdf*

Country level preparations

During country-level preparations, LDCs are encouraged to ensure strong national ownership, contextual relevance, and broad participation. A wide spectrum of stakeholders, including government, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth, women's groups, local authorities, and UN Country Teams should be actively engaged in the review process. This engagement can be achieved through approaches such as focus groups, surveys, expert panels, multi-stakeholder validation meetings and inclusive national consultations. Where appropriate, countries are encouraged to leverage or adapt existing national coordination mechanisms, such as those used for SDG follow-up and review, to lead the DPoA review process. Specifically:

- A focal point may be designated, or the National Focal Point (NFP) for LDCs can oversee the process and serve as the liaison with UN-OHRLLS and other relevant bodies.
- A National Coordination Committee (NCC) or equivalent inter-departmental mechanism should be mobilized to provide oversight and policy guidance.
- Technical Working Groups (TWGs), aligned with the six DPoA priority areas, may be established, as appropriate/necessary, to provide sector-specific inputs, coordinate data and evidence collection, and ensure a comprehensive and coherent review process.
- Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs), United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, IMF, and other multilateral organizations, should be involved, as appropriate, to support national efforts in the preparation of the national reports. The DPOA invites these entities to continue to collaborate with and provide support to national follow-up and monitoring.

LDCs are encouraged to initiate inclusive and participatory national processes to assess progress, identify challenges and gaps, and register effective practices in implementing the DPoA. These national reports should reflect not only quantitative progress against targets but also qualitative insights, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized populations.

The report should include disaggregated data and context-specific indicators where relevant.

To facilitate consistency, comparability, and regional aggregation, countries are strongly encouraged to follow the annotated structure of the national reports provided in these Guidelines. Submission of the national reports to UN-OHRLLS (to the attention of Ms. Yuxin Ai, Senior Programme Management Officer, email: aiy@un.org, and in CC to Ms. Samira Loibl, Associate Expert, email: samira.loibl@un.org) by the recommended **deadline (31/01/2026)** will allow timely integration into the regional reviews and the global synthesis report for the 2027 mid-term review.
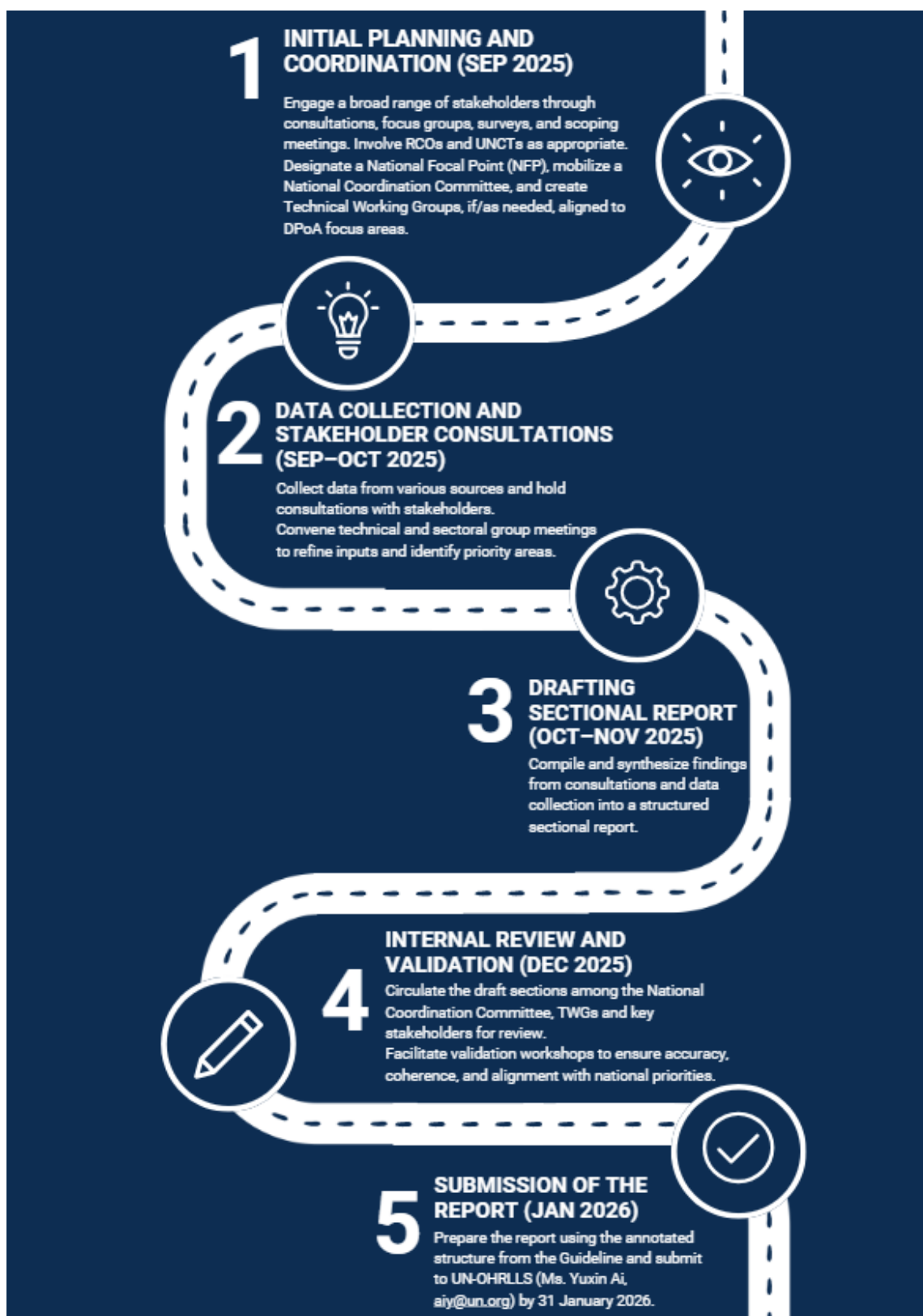
1 INITIAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION (SEP 2025)

Engage a broad range of stakeholders through consultations, focus groups, surveys, and scoping meetings. Involve RCOs and UNCTs as appropriate. Designate a National Focal Point (NFP), mobilize a National Coordination Committee, and create Technical Working Groups, if/as needed, aligned to DPoA focus areas.

2 DATA COLLECTION AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS (SEP–OCT 2025)

Collect data from various sources and hold consultations with stakeholders. Convene technical and sectoral group meetings to refine inputs and identify priority areas.

3 DRAFTING SECTIONAL REPORT (OCT–NOV 2025)

Compile and synthesize findings from consultations and data collection into a structured sectional report.

4 INTERNAL REVIEW AND VALIDATION (DEC 2025)

Circulate the draft sections among the National Coordination Committee, TWGs and key stakeholders for review. Facilitate validation workshops to ensure accuracy, coherence, and alignment with national priorities.

5 SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT (JAN 2026)

Prepare the report using the annotated structure from the Guideline and submit to UN-OHRLLS (Ms. Yuxin Ai, aiy@un.org) by 31 January 2026.

Figure 1: Country level preparations Timeline

Guidance on Integrating Statistics into the National Report on DPoA Implementation

Incorporating statistics and data is essential for preparing a credible and evidence-based national report on the implementation of the DPoA. Reliable data enables countries to measure progress against the DPoA's targets, identify gaps, and inform policy decisions. It also ensures transparency, accountability, and comparability across priority areas such as sustainable development, structural transformation, trade, and resilience.

Using the monitoring framework for the DPoA, which is broadly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework, facilitates consistent reporting and minimizes the burden of additional data collection. It also allows stakeholders, including development partners, to track results and support national efforts effectively.

The DPoA outlines six priority areas and the DPoA Roadmap highlights 35 key action areas, with the M&E framework proposing 165 indicators to track progress toward its targets. It is recommended that the national reports integrate statistics for selected indicators across all six priorities and many key action areas to ensure comprehensive and evidence-based reporting. It is important to take the following considerations into account when using statistics to ensure credibility and consistency:

- **Use both the most recent annual figures and long-term trends** since the commencement of DPoA implementation.
- **Use Official and Reliable Data Sources:** Prioritize data from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), sectoral ministries, and recognized international sources, ensuring all statistics are clearly cited with reference years for transparency and traceability.
- **Ensure Data Disaggregation:** Disaggregate data by sex, age, location, income, disability, and other relevant factors, as appropriate, to reveal disparities and inform targeted, inclusive policy interventions aligned with the "Leave No One Behind" principle.
- **Maintain Timeliness and Consistency:** Use the most recent available data with consistent definitions and methods across reporting cycles and include time series data where possible to illustrate progress and trends over time.
- **Integrate Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis:** Complement statistical findings with contextual and policy analysis to explain trends, identify challenges, and highlight successful practices or lessons learned.
- **Highlight Capacity Gaps and Data Needs:** Identify gaps in data availability or quality and outline measures to strengthen national data systems, including investments in statistical capacity.
- **Use Visualizations for Clarity:** Present key statistics through charts, tables, and infographics to enhance accessibility and understanding for policymakers and stakeholders.
- **Ensure Coherence with Other National and Global Reports:** Align the statistical reporting in the DPoA national report with other frameworks such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), National Development Plans, and SDG reports to ensure consistency and reduce duplication.

Key indicators from the DPoA monitoring framework are recommended for inclusion in the national report. Incorporating a broader range of data enhances the report's ability to support evidence-based decision making.

Annotated structure and content of the National Reports

A. Executive summary (1-2 pages)

This section should provide a concise overview (1–2 pages) summarizing the main findings, progress, challenges, and strategic priorities in the country's implementation of the DPOA. The summary should highlight notable achievements, critical obstacles, and priority recommendations for accelerated implementation, reflecting input from all relevant national and international stakeholders.

B. Introduction (1-2 pages)

This section may briefly describe the country's socioeconomic, institutional, and policy environment as it pertains to the implementation of all the priority areas of the Doha Programme of Action. It may explain the methodology that was adopted for the review, including its scope, depth and limitations, and challenges related to statistical capacity and data availability. It may also present information on the process for preparation of the national review, including how different stakeholders (e.g. ministries, private sector, civil society) contributed to the report and, where applicable, describe collaboration with the UN Country Teams and other development partners.

C. The national development planning process (1-2 pages)

This section should include key aspects of the national sustainable development plans that have mainstreamed the goals and priorities of the Doha Programme of Action, including, where appropriate, strategies to achieve graduation out of the LDC category. References to the specific national policy/strategy documents should be provided.

D. Assessment of progress and challenges in the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Decade 2022-2031 (18-20 pages)

This section should provide an assessment of the overall progress made against the overarching goal of overcoming the structural challenges faced by LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the LDC category as stated in the Doha Programme of Action. The assessment should report both the most recent annual figures and long-term trends since the commencement of DPoA implementation, ensuring a comprehensive perspective on progress and challenges.

Based on the overall analysis related to the objectives of the DPoA, the report should:
- ➢ identify best practices and lessons learnt,
- ➢ highlight internal/external factors (e.g., resource constraints, external shocks, partnerships) that impacted progress in each of the priority areas,
- ➢ illustrate outstanding challenges in each of the six priority areas (Figure 1),
- ➢ explain how principles, actions and guidelines of the 2030 Agenda are integrated into national development policies in order to accelerate progress on the DPoA implementation,
- ➢ and review progress towards the indicators of graduation (GNI per capita, Human Asset Index (HAI), and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)).

Figure 2: DPoA six key action areas. Source DPoA Roadmap, 2024.

I.   Investing in People in Least Developed Countries

The Doha Programme of Action outlines a series of targets under this priority section. It focuses on eradicating poverty, advancing human development, and building capacity to ensure no one is left behind between 2022 and 2031. The DPoA highlights a comprehensive set of priorities and concrete targets under the following ten key action areas:

- Universal social protection systems
- Achieving universal access to quality education, skills and lifelong learning
- Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women, girls and young people to address inequality and drive economic growth
- Population and health
- Investing in young people
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Urbanization and shelter
- Migration and mobility
- Good and effective governance at all levels
- Building and sustaining peace for sustainable development

The report should focus on the following indicators:

Indicators:
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex
Prevalence of undernourishment
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population
Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)
Coverage of essential health services

Under-5 mortality rate
Unemployment rate for youth (15-24 years), by sex
Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training
Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services
Proportion of women in managerial positions
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments
Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

II. Leveraging the Power of Science, Technology, and Innovation

This section highlights how a country is harnessing science, technology, and innovation (STI) as pivotal tools to address multidimensional vulnerabilities and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It can include details on policies, strategies, and institutional frameworks established to promote STI, including alignment with the national development plan and international commitments, and describe actions taken to strengthen research and development ecosystems and foster collaboration between academia, government, and private sector actors. Key action areas include:

- Access to modern technologies for sustainable development and building human capital, infrastructure and institutions to gain the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution
- Science, technology and innovation for development and recovery form the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against emerging challenges
- Promoting private sector engagement, digitalization and broadband connectivity

The report should focus on the following indicators:

Indicators:
Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP
Existence of national development strategy, digital agenda or digital stimulus strategy incl. broadband (Yes/No)
Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita
Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added
Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology
Proportion of individuals using the Internet
Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed
Price of mobile data broadband basket as a % of GNI per capita

III. Supporting Structural Transformation as a Driver of Prosperity

This section should indicate strategies, policies, and actions taken to shift resources towards higher-value sectors, promote economic diversification, and foster innovation in key industries in line with the national development plan. It should also address efforts to enhance workforce skills, upgrade infrastructure, and create an enabling environment for private sector growth. Key action areas include:

- Productive capacity-building
- Infrastructure development: (a) Transport; (b) Energy
- Connecting least developed countries to global and regional value chains and strengthening their services economy and trade
- Support for private sector development

The report should focus on the following indicators:

Indicators:
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person
Proportion of population with access to electricity
Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
Electricity generation capacity per capita (watts)
Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
Total amount of funding for developing and developed countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies
International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems
Manufactures exports (% of merchandise exports)
Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP)
Firms using banks to finance investment (% of firms)
Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

IV. Enhancing International Trade and Regional Integration

This section should highlight concrete measures pursued to enhance international trade and deepen regional integration, as well as their alignment with national development plans and international commitments. The report should detail policy reforms, trade facilitation initiatives, and efforts to improve connectivity and competitiveness within regional and global value chains. Additionally, it should provide an analysis of the impacts of the evolving global trade environment, including recent developments related to tariff and non-tariff measures, on the country's trade prospects and development objectives. Key action areas include:

- Duty-free and quota-free market access
- Preferential rules of origin
- Least developed countries services waiver
- Technical assistance and capacity-building, including through Aid for Trade
- Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
- Agriculture and cotton

- World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation
- E-commerce
- Special and differential treatment
- Regional integration

The report should focus on the following indicators:

Indicators:
Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States
Agricultural export subsidies
Does country have eliminated agricultural export subsidies and equivalent export measures, as per WTO Nairobi Decision (Yes/No)
Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff
Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

V. Addressing Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Building Resilience

This section should focus on the measures adopted by LDCs to confront climate change, combat environmental degradation, and strengthen resilience. Key action areas include:

- Building sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 and resilience against future shocks
- Climate adaptation and building resilience, including sustainable management of natural resources, including a concise account of progress on NAP preparation and implementation, challenges experienced, and progress in implementing multi-hazard early warning systems
- Access to finance and technology to address climate change
- Key areas for support to address climate change and DRR

The report should focus on the following indicators:

Indicators:
Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income
Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors
Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme
Coverage of essential health services
Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
Proportion of total climate finance allocated to adaptation (USD million) with breakdown on source
Proportion of total climate finance allocated to mitigation (USD million) with breakdown on source
Total adaptation finance committed and disbursed to LDCs and other vulnerable countries (USD)

VI.   Mobilizing International Solidarity and Reinvigorated Global Partnerships

The report should provide a detailed account of efforts to mobilize international solidarity and revitalize global partnerships as critical enablers for the sustainable development and graduation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It should identify key challenges faced in this process and specify the resources required for effective implementation, considering the full spectrum of financing sources (public/private, domestic/international) and non-financial means, including capacity development, technology, data, and partnerships. It should outline strategies, policies, and collaborative actions undertaken to secure increased financing, technology transfer, capacity-building, and innovative instruments aligned with national development frameworks and international commitments such as the Doha Programme of Action to foster transformative and resilient progress for LDCs. Where relevant, countries should elaborate on their financing strategies or integrated national financing frameworks, outlining policies and reforms to strengthen resource mobilization. Key action areas include:

- Support for domestic resource mobilization and fight against illicit financial flows
- International public and external finance to contribute to sustainable development in least developed countries
- Foreign direct investment
- Debt sustainability and debt cancellation initiative through improved and transparent debt architecture
- Remittances
- Extension of international support measures to graduating and graduated least developed countries to make graduation sustainable and irreversible
- Availability and use of data
- Implementation, follow-up and monitoring

The report should focus on the following indicators.

Indicators:
Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source
Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)
Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services and primary income
Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted
Existence and implementation status of national smooth transition strategy (Yes/No)
Duty-free quota-free (DFQF) coverage provided to graduated countries
Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

E. Progress towards graduation (1-2 pages)

This section should provide a comprehensive overview of the country's progress towards graduation from LDC category, outlining its status against the three graduation criteria: Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, the Human Assets Index (HAI), and the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). It should highlight the country's vision or strategy for graduation, where available. Where appropriate, the section should also report on the development and implementation of smooth transition strategies, elaborating on how national development plans and institutional arrangements are designed to ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation. Furthermore, it should identify specific support measures available to facilitate a successful transition and safeguard development progress post-graduation.

F. Coherence and linkages with the 2030 Agenda and other global processes (1-2 pages)

The 2030 Agenda has placed the promise of leaving no-one behind at the centre of global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, build a future of shared prosperity and protect our planet. LDCs received special attention in the 2030 Agenda as the most vulnerable countries. The challenges and priorities are firmly embodied in the basic architecture of the 2030 Agenda.

The report should indicate how principles, actions and guidelines of the 2030 Agenda and other major international agreements are integrated into national development policies in order to accelerate progress on the priority areas set in the DPoA and ensure sustainable and inclusive development that fosters meaningful change to the lives of those living in the LDCs.

G. Case Studies on Best Practices (2-3 pages)

This section should present specific case studies showcasing best practices and innovative approaches that have contributed to tangible progress in one or more areas of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA). Each case study should:

- Describe the context and objectives of the initiative, including the specific challenges addressed and alignment with DPoA and national development priorities.
- Detail the design, implementation, and stakeholder engagement involved, emphasizing multi-sectoral coordination and participation by relevant actors such as government agencies, civil society, the private sector, and marginalized communities.
- Highlight measurable results and transformative impacts achieved, supported by evidence and data.
- Reflect lessons learned and key success factors, including policies, innovative financing, technology adoption, or capacity-building, that have potential for scaling up or replication in other LDCs.
- Discuss sustainability and adaptability, examining how the practice addresses the principle of "leaving no one behind," fosters resilience, and supports the achievement of both national and global commitments (including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

Countries are encouraged to select case studies that offer practical insights for peer learning, especially those with transformative potential, strong interlinkages among sectors, or replicable models for overcoming common LDC bottlenecks.

H. Recommendations and the way forward (3-4 pages)

Building on the lessons learnt and good practices identified in preceding sections, this section should provide clear recommendations on measures to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to ensure accelerated implementation of the DPoA and meet the graduation thresholds over the next 5 years. It should also elaborate on what steps the country has planned to accelerate the implementation of the DPoA. Recommendations should also specify what financial, technical and capacity-related support will be needed in the future for preparing such national reviews.

I. Statistical annex (length as needed)

Countries are encouraged to include an annex with data. Please always include the data source and highlight whether statistics were collected from the national statistical system and pinpoint major gaps in official statistics on indicators. Countries may want to include additional annexes where they would showcase best practices and/or policies and strategies that have advanced implementation of the DPOA and the 2030 Agenda. Countries might consider including an annex specifically on interlinkages between the goals and targets as well as the global impacts of national actions (spillover).