
Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries

New York, 26 September 2025

1. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Least Developed Countries LDCs, met in New York on 26 September 2025 and deliberated on the theme “Building momentum for accelerated implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in an era of multiple crises: Road to the 2027 Doha Mid-term Review”.
2. We reiterate our unwavering commitments to multilateralism and to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as the world marks the 80th anniversary of the United Nations under the theme “Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights,”. We need to collectively strategize on overcoming barriers to progress and building on current achievements and anchoring the LDC needs and priorities in the broader UN80 and global development discourse.
3. We underline the urgent need to pursue timely and effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2022 to 2031 in a coordinated and coherent manner engaging all key stakeholders.
4. We express appreciation to the State of Qatar for its continued commitment to supporting the implementation of DPoA including its deliverables. We also welcome with deep appreciation the generous offer of the State of Qatar to host the Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in Doha from 25-27 March 2027.
5. We also express our appreciation to all development partners and relevant stakeholders for the support provided to the LDCs and for the continued commitment of support to the implementation of the DPoA, including its deliverables and further call upon them for increased support in all forms for the full, timely and effective implementation of the DPoA and operationalization of its deliverables and request the OHRLLS to further elaborate the deliverables as appropriate.
6. We acknowledge with appreciation the support provided by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), especially for implementing the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA). We call upon development partners and the UN Secretary-General to enhance their support and resources for UN-OHRLLS to ensure effective delivery in achieving the objectives and targets of the DPoA.
7. We note with concern that the LDCs continue to be severely affected by the multi-dimensional impacts of geopolitical tensions and conflicts, together with the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise, biodiversity loss, and digital divides as well as increased pressure on food, energy and finance placing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action at greater risk. We reiterate the call for a comprehensive transformation of the global partnership architecture, with scaled up quantitative and qualitative support on all fronts tailored for the special needs of the least developed countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goals as well as ensuring that no one or country is left behind.
8. We look forward to the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 November 2025, and underscore the importance of the social dimension as a crucial component in sustainable development.

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9. We welcome the Awaza Programme of Action for the LLDCs and the Awaza Political Declaration adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Awaza, Turkmenistan from 5 to 8 August 2025 and request the international community including the UN-OHRLS and the entire UN system to provide all necessary support to the LLDCs, especially LDCs within this group to ensure their full and effective implementation.
 10. We welcome the findings and conclusions of the report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries¹.
 11. We underscore that a fundamental shift is needed – in commitment, solidarity, financing and action to put the world on a better path. Urgent global actions are needed to cope with and overcome pre-existing and emerging challenges and drive our countries back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its SDGs.
 12. We reiterate that financing for sustainable development is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, as it supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment needed to address the pre-existing and emerging challenges of the LDCs in financing for sustainable development and to create an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity for present and future generations. We note with concern the persisting challenges impacting LDCs' economic progress and further crippling our fiscal space and reiterate the commitment made in the FfD4 outcome to address the diverse needs and challenges of the LDCs and to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and its deliverables
 13. We welcome the Sevilla Commitment adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Ffd4) held in Sevilla, Spain from 30 June to 3 July 2025, and underscore the importance of its full, timely and effective implementation, critical for the realization of the SDGs and their targets.
 14. We welcome the efforts made to operationalize the DPoA deliverables as follows:
 - a. We welcome progress made on LDC Food Stockholding Mechanism to enhance food security and build resilience against food crises. We also welcome the creation of the Inter-agency Task Force co-led by UN-OHRLS and EOSG and comprising IFAD, FAO, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDRR, WFP and WTO to guide the preparation of the comprehensive feasibility study for the operationalization of the Food Stockholding Mechanism for LDCs. We look forward to the detailed feasibility study, which should include, among others, a road map for the operationalization of the Food Stockholding Mechanism as well as detailed plans for a pilot scheme for a limited group of LDCs, as requested in the report of the Secretary-General (A/79/540).
 - b. We welcome progress made on the Resilience Building Mechanism including the first comprehensive study on multi-hazard early warning systems in LDCs which highlight critical gaps and recommendations for addressing them. We encourage development partners and the full UN development system to support LDCs in addressing the recommendations. We look forward to the capacity-building workshops and other collaborations aimed at tackling the critical gaps identified in the report.
 - c. We welcome the continued efforts under the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility for LDCs

¹ A/79/75-E/2024/8

(iGRAD), to reduce fragmentation and enhance efficient delivery of support for graduation, and also welcome the holding of an Inter-Agency Task Force meeting in May 2025 where the UN partners demonstrated strong commitment to coordinated graduation support; we further look forward to the convening of a High-Level Global Meeting in Doha on graduation and smooth transition to launch new initiatives under the sustainable graduation support facilities (iGRAD)

d. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on an online university for LDCs containing, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, persistent challenges and gaps in tertiary STEM education and possible solutions using cost-effective technologies, demonstrating that establishing an online university or an equivalent platform dedicated to LDCs is not only viable but also urgently needed; we welcome the recommendations in the report, supporting efforts to conduct a sample mapping of in-country assessments, and endorsing the establishment of a Task Force to provide strategic direction leading towards full operationalization of OUL as a matter of priority. We also welcome the recommendations of the High-Level Experts Group meeting on the Online University held from 3-4 June 2025.

e. We welcome the Secretary-General's extensive stock-taking of the existing FDI-related technical assistance provided to LDCs and its findings regarding the functions of an international investment support center. We welcome the decision in paragraph 33.b of the Sevilla Commitment to establish and operationalize an international investment support center and request the Secretary-General to carry out pilot projects and submit the final recommendations from the full feasibility study to the General Assembly for its consideration at its eighty-first session.

15. We reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in addressing global challenges and note the Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative. We stress that any proposals under this Initiative and its three workstreams must fully respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the intergovernmental nature of the Organization, further emphasize that the UN80 process should strengthen, not dilute, multilateralism, ensure equitable participation of all Member States, and address the priorities and concerns of developing countries, particularly LDCs. In this regard, we underscore that reforms under the three workstreams, across all three pillars of the United Nations should contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enhance the voice and representation of developing countries, and be conducted through transparent, inclusive, and Member State-driven process.
16. We welcome the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system operational activities (QCPR) 2024 A/Res/79/226 and reiterate the call for provision of support to address the special challenges of LDCs and to continue to enhance support for the implementation of the DPoA.
17. We stress the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance and technology transfer to LDCs we urge the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including recent decisions adopted at COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan further look forward to the full operationalization of the new funding arrangements including the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage.
18. We reiterate our call to fulfil the longstanding commitment by most developed countries to achieve the targets of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries, and between 0.15 and 0.2 per cent of ODA/GNI to the LDCs. We further call on the developed countries to ensure the alignment of aid with the LDCs' national priorities, and systems. We are encouraged by the generous support by those developed countries that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the LDCs.

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19. We reiterate our call to official creditors to make long-term sustainable financing available to the LDCs through grants and concessional funding and to offer more fixed-interest lending at low-interest rates, emphasizing that this is part of a mix of financing approaches that also include grants.
 20. We recognize that the LDCs can derive significant benefits from a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO. We look forward to the 16th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade (UNCTAD16) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 20-23 October 2025 under the theme “Shaping the future: Driving economic transformation for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development” and the 14th Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held in Cameroon in March 2026.
 21. We call for full implementation of the WTO ministerial decisions on LDCs. We recall the commitment of the international community to contribute to strengthening e-commerce in the LDCs by building digital ecosystems and providing capacity-building support. We urge development partners to provide additional and substantial support to the LDCs in building and gaining access to required infrastructure in energy, electricity and digital infrastructure; promoting personal data protection; upskilling the workforce; ensuring affordable and reliable access to broadband and mobile networks and Wi-Fi connectivity facilitating mobile banking with low- or no-fee digital payments; and strengthening productive capacity and structural transformation, along with transparent and fair regulations, for promoting e-commerce and the integration of the LDCs into the global economy. We welcome the workshop on trade elements of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs held in Bangkok in May 2025, jointly organized by OHRLLS, WTO and ESCAP.
 22. We note with concern that the stock of debt and debt service payment obligations of LDCs increased significantly, with 6 least developed countries in debt distress and 17 others classified as facing a high risk of debt distress. The total external debt stock of LDCs has surged to \$585.9 billion in 2023 – a threefold increase since 2010 and equating to 38.7 per cent of gross national income. Total debt servicing costs have become unsustainable, consuming 14.2 per cent of export earnings in LDCs by 2023, nearly double the 2014 figure. The average interest payments of LDCs on total external debt increased by almost 50 per cent between 2022 and 2023, further intensifying their debt vulnerabilities. We call upon the development partners, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, commercial and private creditors and other stakeholders to undertake urgent measures to address the debt problems of LDCs through coordinated policies and measures aimed at strengthening debt crisis prevention, including through sound debt management and transparency. In this context, it is worthwhile to develop an improved multilateral debt relief initiative that supports debt cancellation, debt payment suspensions; debt exchanges; and debt rescheduling, including a clear mechanism to include private creditors ensuring that debt relief does not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for the LDCs.
 23. We congratulate the fourteen LDCs that are at different stages in the graduation process. We recognize that graduating and graduated countries face major challenges in addressing an increasingly challenging external environment and call for the full operationalization of the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD), as a concrete, country-led solution of dedicated capacity development support. We urge Member States to provide voluntary contributions to support the full operationalization of this initiative. We also call on the Office of the High Representative to continue to lead the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on LDC Graduation Support, to respond to the growing demand from graduating LDCs and to rally the United Nations development system in support of each graduating country with a view to ensuring better coordinated provision of joint initiatives to support a smooth transition out of the category.

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24. We recognize the need for the General Assembly to consider a comprehensive update to the graduation framework to make it fit for purpose; take note of the benefits of updating the existing General Assembly resolutions on smooth transition, including for the purpose of providing necessary guidance on the process of extending the preparatory period preceding graduation; In this regard, we call on the President of the General Assembly to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to carry out an inclusive and transparent process to review and update the existing resolutions on smooth transition and the support to graduating LDCs and recently graduated countries.
 25. We acknowledge the critical importance of science, technology and innovation, including inclusive and enabling innovation ecosystems, environmentally sound technologies and ICT in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We reiterate the importance of article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement to provide incentives by developed country members to the enterprises and institutions in their territories for promoting technology transfer to enable the LDCs to create a sound and viable technological base. We welcome the decision of the DPoA that each LDC will establish and strengthen a national science institute to promote local innovations, research, design and development, including in emerging technologies. We also call upon development partners to undertake specific initiatives to build technological capacity and digital infrastructure and connectivity in the LDCs.
 26. We recognize the critical importance of the work of the UN Technology Bank for the LDCs as a focal point to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation. We support the role of the Technology Bank in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of the LDCs for structural transformation and productive capacity development. We urge Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and further boost its capacity to deliver results to the LDCs. We also call for strengthened collaboration among Governments, the private sector and academia to advance science, technology and innovation research and development, build inclusive digital economies and bridge the digital divide, including by facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.
 27. We recommit to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and supporting countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances. In this regard, we recognize the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit and destination and the positive role and contributions of migrant worker remittances to economic development in the LDCs.
 28. We recognize the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation in the changing global economic landscape and stress that the potential of this cooperation for trade, investment, and economic and technological cooperation should be fully harnessed in a predictable manner in line with the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation as a complement to, and not a substitute for North-South cooperation. We call upon the countries of the global South to further strengthen their support to the LDCs in all these areas in a predictable manner to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.
 29. We commit to strengthening good governance, democratic processes and the rule of law by ensuring transparent and accountable governance, equal access to justice and independent judicial institutions,

based on respect for human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of those experiencing poverty, marginalization or vulnerability, especially women and girls. We also commit to increased democratic participation, enhancing institutional capacity at all levels and strengthening civil society. We will also strengthen efforts to fight corruption, bribery and money laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by strengthening anti-corruption and other laws and regulations and their effective enforcement.

30. We call for the continued implementation of the Road map for the accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action by OHRLLS and call on LDCs Governments, development partners, UN Country Teams and other relevant stakeholders to make use of the Road map and its toolkit to align programming and priorities with the DPoA.
31. We are concerned by the data gaps persisting for several indicators to monitor the DPoA and SDGs in LDCs, which makes reporting on some targets all but impossible. We call for increased international support to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data to enable meaningful monitoring of the DPoA and the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we welcome the development by OHRLLS of a DPoA Monitoring Framework as a tool to effectively monitor DPoA implementation in the LDCs. We look forward to the finalization of a methodology for its application and to its full and effective operationalization.
32. We welcome the participation at this meeting of many development partners. We most sincerely acknowledge the supportive role being played by the Group of Friends of the Least Developed Countries and invite the Group to further strengthen its support for the effective realization of the Doha Programme of Action. We also call upon the Friends of LDCs to actively participate in the Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the Doha Programme of Action to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, in 2027 and to support the fulfilment of concrete targets and deliverables agreed at the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries in support of the implementation of the DPoA.
33. We resolve to uphold our common aspiration of ensuring sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all LDCs leading to our goal of graduation from the least developed country category. We continue to maintain our solidarity and unity and pursue a common position on issues related to our interests in various multilateral forums, including the UN.