



**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

**Opening statement by Ms. Rabab Fatima
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative**

At the Meeting of LDC National Focal Points

9:30 am, Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Conference Room 12

H.E. Mr. Sedat Önal, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the UN

Ms. Prathma Uprety, Charge d Affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nepal, Chair of the LDC Group

Distinguished National Focal Points of LDCs and the 2nd Committee experts from missions of LDCs in New York

This is the first LDC National Focal Points meeting held in New York since the pandemic. I warmly welcome you to the UN headquarters!

I would like to thank the Government of Türkiye for its continued support to the least developed countries and for funding this meeting.

I would also like to thank colleagues from different UN entities for their participation and contributions.

This year's meeting of National Focal Points of the LDCs is of critical importance. This is a continuation of discussions that

many of you joined with UN Resident Coordinators in LDCs in Doha, Qatar in March during the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5).

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

It is already over a year since the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) was adopted.

We need urgent actions at all levels to ensure full and effective implementation of the DPoA.

LDCs have been disproportionately affected by the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other interlinked and overlapping global crises.

The DPoA is a new development blueprint for the LDCs to achieve a rapid recovery from the pandemic, build resilience against future shocks and accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Therefore, the implementation of the DPoA must be owned and led by the LDCs. It's critical to mainstream the DPoA into

national sustainable development for ensuring its timely implementation at the country level.

Moreover, successful implementation of the DPoA in LDCs also hinges on efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms.

There must be synergies among the DPOA, national plans and programmes, and the implementation strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Allow me to highlight four specific points for the effective implementation, follow-up, and monitoring of the DPOA at the country level.

First, building on the experience in implementing previous Programmes of Actions at country level, it is important to set up a robust national coordination mechanism to ensure coherent and integrated implementation of the DPOA.

An inclusive participation of all stakeholders is critical to support the national government, mobilize resources, and underpin uninterrupted implementation.

Second, we need to ensure linkages between different monitoring mechanisms and tools for implementation of international agendas at national level. There must be synergies in the reporting on the SDGs and the DPOA to make best use of available resources.

Later at this meeting, my Office and other UN entities including DCO, DESA, UNDP and regional commissions will brief you on the monitoring framework, planning toolkits and integrated financing frameworks, which aims to provide holistic views and comprehensive tools for mainstreaming and monitoring.

Third, LDCs need capacity building, particularly to strengthen statistical capacities for effective monitoring, data collection and reporting. In March, I mentioned the need to strengthen the role of the NFPs in the implementation of the DPOA. This includes capacity building of the NFPs.

I am pleased to inform you that my Office, with the generous support of the government of Türkiye, is planning to organize a training programme for NFPs to introduce a toolkit for mainstreaming the DPoA into national development plans and strategies later this year.

Fourth, it is critical to leverage important moments at different multilateral forums to ensure renewed attention to the DPOA and rally support for its implementation.

The DPOA is essentially designed to advance progress towards the SDGs. The Voluntary National Review (VNRs) during the HLPF is an important opportunity to highlight the synergies between the DPOA and the SDGs. The National Focal Points can play a proactive role in this regard.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

Let me now take this opportunity to update you on the important progress in the implementation of the DPoA since the LDC5 Conference.

After the LDC5 Conference, Nepal has assumed the Chairmanship of the LDC Global Coordination Bureau. Under the able leadership of Ambassador Rai, the Bureau has already identified its strategic priorities for the next three years.

On my part, I have intensified advocacy to rally enhanced support for the implementation of the DPOA. This includes increased engagement with Geneva- and Rome-based UN entities, hubs of regional organizations in Africa, Asia and Europe, the World Bank and the IMF, and partners from the South.

I convened a principal level meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Consultative Group to follow-up on their commitments in support of the LDCs made during the LDC5 Conference.

My Office has drafted detailed proposals on all five DPOA deliverables, namely an online university, a system of food stockholding, an investment support center, a sustainable graduation support facility, and resilience building. We are exploring potential donors and partners to implement them.

My Office is also working on a number of Secretary-General's reports on implementation of the deliverables.

We are also preparing a roadmap to identify the specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the implementation of the DPoA.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

We need to build on the strong momentum of the LDC5 Conference, and translate commitments made both by the LDCs and the global community into tangible actions on the ground.

We have a full agenda, but a tight schedule. The ambitious targets and deliverables of the DPoA must be matched by strong resolve and tangible actions if we want to turn the DPOA into a reality.

The National Focal Points are the frontline implementors of the DPOA. You play a vital role in facilitating and coordinating the effective implementation of the DPOA at the national level.

I hope that you will benefit from the rich programme and engaging discussions in the following two days.

I wish your fruitful discussions and thank you for your contribution.

Thank you.