

**Check against delivery**



**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the  
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing  
Countries and Small Island Developing States**

**Closing remarks by Ms. Rabab Fatima  
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative**

**At the Meeting of LDC National Focal Points**

**17:30, Wednesday, 12 July 2023**

**Conference Room 12**

**Distinguished National Focal Points of LDCs,  
Dear Colleagues,**

**We have come to the conclusion of the National Focal Points Meeting.**

**I take this opportunity to thank you all for your active participation and engaging discussions over the last two days.**

**At this meeting, we have explored the tools and monitoring mechanisms for the effective implementation of the DPOA at the country level. There have also been focused discussions on the sustainable graduation support facility – called iGRAD – and strengthening of the UN Technology Bank for the LDCs with a view to enhancing the science, technology and innovation capacities in LDCs.**

**The discussions culminated in a rich and diverse collection of national experiences in mainstreaming the DPOA into national sustainable development strategies.**

**We have learned a lot about the challenges and constraints you are facing and areas where you would need enhanced support.**

**Your reflections and feedback are indeed extremely helpful for us to calibrate the focus of our programme, and deliver tailored support in the future.**

**Dear Colleagues,**

**The DPOA promises to bring about transformative changes in the 46 LDCs and the lives and livelihoods of more than a billion people living there. But to turn the DPOA promises into reality, we must ensure its full and effective implementation.**

**As I mentioned in my opening remarks, our first priority must be to mainstream the DPOA targets and goals into national development strategies - and to develop national implementation plans.**

**The national focal point has a critical role in this regard both in their country contexts and at global levels. I am happy to hear that all of you made presentations**

**highlighting the progress of integration of the DPOA into your national development strategies.**

**We are encouraged that some countries already have concluded the process of integration, while others have laid out a clear framework for national-level integration.**

**Delegations also discussed the key challenges with regard to DPOA's integration into their national plans. Many LDCs are now in the midst of implementing their previous planning cycle and need to wait until the current plan comes to an end.**

**Several speakers underlined the need for building capacity of the national and sectoral focal points for effective integration, implementation and monitoring of the POA.**

**We have also taken note of the recommendation to develop a common guideline for mainstreaming the DPOA.**

**The importance of leveraging science, technology and innovation for LDCs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals from the LDC category was underscored. In this regard, we have taken particular**

**note of the call to enhance the support for the UN Technology Bank toLDCs.**

**The discussions also highlighted the importance of effective tools for monitoring and evaluation for implementation of the DPoA, but also the challenges in data availability, access, collection and validation, and need for synergies with existing monitoring efforts such as on the SDGs. Enhanced support from the UN system, including the RC and UN Country Team, as well as all development partners is indispensable in this regard.**

**Several UN agencies elaborated on the support that they are providing to the LDCs.**

**DESA and UNDP, for example, are going to launch a practical guide on Integrated National Financing Frameworks, which will support the LDCs in addressing the financing gaps for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and DPOA.**

**With respect to accelerating progress towards graduation, a platform for interregional exchange of experiences was recommended, which my Office has taken note. We are also planning to organize dedicated**

**meetings on knowledge sharing and peer learning between the graduation LDCs and the others on the track to do so.**

**As I mentioned in my opening remarks, the OHRLLS is preparing a roadmap with clear delineation of responsibilities for all relevant stakeholders to advance the targets, commitments and deliverables of the DPOA.**

**Looking ahead, besides the HLPF, there are a number of important events and processes where my Office and myself will actively engage to advocate for the LDCs.**

**These include the 78<sup>th</sup> UNGA, the SDG Summit, the dialogue on Financing for Development, the preparatory meeting for the Summit of the Future, the ministerial meeting of the LDC Group, and COP28 on climate change.**

**And in 2024, the first biennial regional review meetings will be held, where we will have the opportunity to discuss the regional roadmaps of the DPOA implementation.**

**Next year, there will be LLDC3 and SID4 conferences, the other two vulnerable groups of countries that my office**

**supports. The UN Secretary General has appointed me as the Secretary General of the LLDC3 Conference and Special Advisor for the SIDS4 Conference.**

**Given the shared priorities that the LDCs have with both these two vulnerable groups, the roles of your delegations will be critically important to deliver ambitious and action oriented POAs for the next decade of development for the LLDCs and SIDs.**

**Dear Colleagues,**

**The DPOA is indeed an excellent blueprint to put the LDCs on a transformative track to development—a track from potentials to prosperity.**

**We must invest all our energy and efforts to translate this ambition into concrete actions on the ground.**

**I and my entire team are ready to work with you hand in hand, and provide all necessary support to make it happen.**

**I would rest it here.**

**I wish you all the success in the HLFP and a safe trip back home.**

**I thank you all.**