

## Regional consultation on LDC5 for LDCs in Africa and Haiti

17 January 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### Draft master of ceremony: Taufiqur Rahman, WTO

*[At 16.00 sharp the start of the event, lights go off - welcome video from DDG is playing. After that, lights go on and Taufiq opens the event.]*

UN Under-Secretary General Her Excellency Rabab Fatima,  
Acting Executive Secretary Antonio Pedro,  
Ambassador Hassan,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The video message was from WTO Deputy Director-General Zhang and I would like to join him in welcoming all of you to our LDC5 regional consultation. DDG Zhang was very much looking forward to meeting you in person, but could not make it due to his evolving schedule.

We are very pleased to work closely with the UN community to support LDC integration in global trade. We are also very pleased to see so many senior officials joining us in Addis. We have several delegations and experts coming from Geneva and other parts of the world.

This a unique forum for all of us to discuss how we can better support LDC integration in regional and global trade.

Let's begin with the opening session.

Let me now invite UN Under Secretary-General and High Representative Her Excellency Rabab Fatima to address the participants. Under Secretary-General, we are very privileged to have you with us here today. You have the floor.

*[Rabab Fatima speaks for 10 min.]*

Thank you, Under Secretary-General, for your guidance and leadership.

I would now like to invite Acting Executive Secretary Antonio Pedro to deliver his opening remarks. Executive Secretary, you have the floor.

*[Antonio Pedro speaks for 5 min.]*

Thank you, Executive Secretary, for hosting this important regional consultation.

I would like to invite Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan of Djibouti and Coordinator of the WTO LDC Group. Ambassador, very happy to see you in Addis. Thank you for joining us here, despite your very busy schedule. You have the floor.

*[Ambassador Kadra Hassan speaks for 5 min.]*

Thank you, Ambassador Hassan, for steering the work of the WTO LDC Group in Geneva.

And with that, the regional consultation on LDC5 for LDCs in African and Haiti is now open. I would like to thank our colleagues at UNECA and UNOPS for their cooperation and support in the preparation of this event.

Before starting with our first session with Trade elements of the Doha Programme of Action, May I now request all participants to proceed at the entrance of this building for a family photo.

Thank you very much.