



22 April 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 17 December 2020, regarding the inaugural meeting of my Board of Advisers for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), I have the pleasure to share a summary of the second meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 February 2021.

It is clear that the role of durable, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, inclusive partnerships cannot be underestimated in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. In this regard, I look forward to your support in ensuring we truly leave no one behind.

For further information pertaining to the Board of Advisers, your office may contact Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Senior Adviser (toni-shae.freckleton@un.org) and Ms. Nehali Anupriya, Adviser (nehali.anupriya@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration



Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Summary

Second Meeting

Board of Advisers for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States



“Partnerships for the Most Vulnerable”

17 February 2021, Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters

On 17 February 2021, the President of the General Assembly (PGA), H.E. Volkan BOZKIR, hosted the second meeting with his Board of Advisers for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In addition to the participation of all members of the Board, the President also invited Ms. Abby Maxman, Chief Executive Officer of Oxfam America; and Ms. Claire Melamed, Chief Executive Officer of Data4SDGs to participate in the meeting. The meeting centered around discussing the whole-of-society approach needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly for the most vulnerable Member States; LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

The Board meeting was attended by the following individuals:

- H.E. Mr. Perks Master Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations and Chair of the Least Developed Countries
- H.E. Mr. Maghzan Ilyassov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and Chair of the Landlocked Developing Countries
- H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (2021-2022)
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
- Under-Secretary General, Ms. Fekitamoeloa ‘Utoikamanu, High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States
- Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs on behalf of Under-Secretary General Mr. Liu Zhenmin
- Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief of the New York Liaison Office of the UN Conference on Trade and Development
- Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of the New York Liaison Office of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Ms. Sofia Borges, Senior Vice President of UN Foundation
- Ms. Claire Melamed, CEO, Data4SDGs
- Ms. Abby Maxman, CEO, Oxfam America

The Board and its external briefers discussed the role of partnerships, the shortcomings of current partnership frameworks and the need for inclusive development strategies to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With large proportions of the populations in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, being rural, or with the majority having limited institutional capacities, and with inequalities within and between countries on the rise, this meeting also leveraged the

technical expertise of some Board members, and the in-country experience of others, to bridge the gap between what is needed, what is being done. Board members placed specific focus on the potential cross-sectoral, and multi-level and multi-stakeholder partnerships. In doing so, the discussion also touched on the constraints in meeting historical commitments of development partners for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as prospective methods to overcome them.

A summary of the key points raised during the meeting are as follows:

- Support was expressed for the continuation of the Board of Advisers as a PGA led mechanism beyond the end of the 75th Session in order to maintain focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
- Since the establishment of the Board of Advisers, there has been a higher level of coordination among the three groups of countries.
- There is need for innovative and blended financing mechanisms, debt forgiveness, appropriate levels of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), and increased foreign direct investment (FDI) in order to create fiscal space and resilience in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
- Participants called for greater interaction, integration, and coordination between international financial institutions and the United Nations in order to develop partnerships beyond debt suspension
- Participants called for the historical commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on ODA and 0.15%-0.2% to LDCs specifically to be met.
- The Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, the SIDS Toolbox, the SIDS Global Business Network, and the SIDS Partnership Criteria were commended as effective tools to generate new and better partnerships for SIDS. It was suggested that these modalities and mechanisms serve as inspiration for possible use by other groups.
- The Board underscored the role and value of the General Assembly in providing the global platform for reporting and review, including through a strengthened monitoring and accountability framework for partnerships. The role of the General Assembly was also highlighted in bringing stakeholders together to de-risk trade and investment.
- Participants reiterated the need for partnerships to be inclusive, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder in nature. Some examples highlighted were celebrated for their proximity to local communities, and ability to be flexible and adapt to local needs, priorities, and contexts.
- There was a suggestion to host dedicated meetings on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS to generate political will and support for their attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.