



Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Distr.: Limited
25 May 2021

Original: English



Doha, 23–27 January 2022

Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

First session

New York, 24–28 May 2021

Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee at its first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez (Paraguay)

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions [73/242](#), [74/232](#) A and B and [75/227](#), the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held its first session at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, from 24 to 28 May 2021.
2. Taking into account the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the work of the Preparatory Committee, the Committee held its first session in the form of in-person meetings and virtual informal meetings (see annex II).

II. Organization of the session

A. Organizational session

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/227](#), an organizational session was held on 8 February 2021 at United Nations Headquarters. An account of the proceedings of the organizational session is contained in annex I.
4. During the organizational session, the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee invited participating States to contribute substantive inputs for the outcome of the Conference.¹

¹ Available at www.un.org/ldc5/content/organisational-session-statements.



B. Election of officers

5. At the 1st meeting of its organizational session, on 8 February 2021, the Preparatory Committee elected its officers as follows:

Co-Chairs:

Rabab Fatima (Bangladesh)
Robert Keith Rae (Canada)

Vice-Chairs:

Marie Chatardová (Czechia)
Taye Atskeselassie Amde (Ethiopia)
Antonio Rodrigue (Haiti)
Amrit Bahadur Rai (Nepal)
Julio César Arriola Ramírez (Paraguay) (designated as Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee)
Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu (Turkey)
Adonia Ayebare (Uganda)

Ex officio:

Perks Master Clemency Ligoya (Malawi)
Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar)

6. Pursuant to resolution [74/232 A](#), Qatar, as host country of the Conference, and Malawi, as the Chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries, would serve as ex officio members.

C. Opening of the session

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions [73/242](#), [74/232 A](#) and [75/227](#), the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held at United Nations Headquarters from 24 to 28 May 2021.

8. The session was opened by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, Rabab Fatima (Bangladesh) and Robert Keith Rae (Canada), who made statements.

9. The General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provided support to the Preparatory Committee as the secretariat for the session.

10. At the 1st meeting, on 24 May, opening statements were made by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, Volkan Bozkır (Turkey) (pre-recorded video statement) and the President of the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session, Munir Akram (Pakistan).

11. At the same meeting, a keynote statement was made by the President and Minister of Defence of Malawi, Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera (pre-recorded video statement), in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries.

12. Also at the same meeting, a keynote statement was made by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi (pre-recorded video statement), in his capacity as representative of the host country of the Conference.

13. Also at the 1st meeting, a statement was made by the Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Susanna Moorehead (pre-recorded video statement).

14. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Secretary-General of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

15. At its 1st meeting, on 24 May 2021, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, as follows (see [A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/2](#)):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Preparations for the Conference:
 - (a) Organizational and procedural preparations;
 - (b) Substantive preparations.
4. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.
5. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee at its first session.

16. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee approved its organization of work as contained in document [A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/2/Add.1/Rev.1](#), with the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the session.

III. Preparations for the Conference: substantive preparations

17. At its 1st meeting, on 24 May 2021, the Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 3 (b), Preparations for the Conference: substantive preparations, and heard statements by the representatives of Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Union, in its capacity as observer (on behalf of its member States), Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), Timor-Leste, Nepal, Eritrea, Japan, Afghanistan, China, Cambodia, South Africa, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Morocco, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Belgium, Bhutan, Yemen, Cyprus and Brazil. A written statement was also submitted by the representative of India.

18. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Preparatory Committee.

IV. Action by the Preparatory Committee

A. Decisions of the Preparatory Committee

19. *(to be completed)*

B. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

20. *(to be completed)*

V. Attendance

21. For the list of participants, see document A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/INF/___.

Annex I

Proceedings of the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/227](#), an organizational session of the Preparatory Committee was held at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, on 8 February 2021.
2. The 1st meeting of the organizational session was opened by the Secretary-General of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, who made a statement.

Election of officers

3. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected its officers (see para. 5 of the draft report).

Adoption of the agenda of the organizational session

4. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda of its organizational session ([A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/1](#)).

Introductory statements

5. Also at the 1st meeting, introductory statements were made by the President of the General Assembly and by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (Botswana).

Adoption of the agenda of the Preparatory Committee and other organizational matters

6. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Economic and Social Council in its decisions 1993/215 and 1995/201, will apply to its meetings, as applicable.
7. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee recommended the adoption of the provisional agenda of its first session ([A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/2](#)).

Organizational preparations for the Conference

8. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, in her capacity as representative of the host country of the Conference, briefed the Preparatory Committee on the status of preparations for the Conference.

General statements

9. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee heard general statements by the representatives of Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Malawi (on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries), the European Union, in its capacity as observer, Kazakhstan (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), Guatemala (on behalf of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Turkey, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Ethiopia, Yemen,

Romania, Brazil, Cambodia, the United States of America, Paraguay, Lesotho, Czechia, the Comoros and Mauritania.

10. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 February, the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the representatives of Pakistan, Indonesia, Bhutan, Maldives, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Cuba, India, Uganda, Norway, Tuvalu and the Holy See.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Common Fund for Commodities, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the International Seabed Authority.

12. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union, the executive secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the World Trade Organization, the International Trade Centre, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Annex II

**Proceedings of the virtual informal meetings of the first session of
the Preparatory Committee**

(to be completed)

Annex III

Documentation

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/2	Annotated provisional agenda
A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/2/Add.1/Rev.1	Revised proposed organization of work
A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/3	Note by the Secretariat on the outcome of the Africa regional review meeting
A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/L.1	Draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 26–30 July 2021
A/CONF.219/2021/IPC/L.2	Draft report
