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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Pakistan:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted during the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 17 March 2022, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Recalling also the progress achieved in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹ as well as where it fell short of achieving desired progress in the set goals and targets,

Affirming that the Doha Programme of Action is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners grounded in the overarching goals of achieving rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, strengthening labour markets by promoting the transition from informal to formal employment, enabling graduation from the least developed country category, facilitating access to sustainable and innovative financing, addressing inequalities, within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation, mainstreaming technology-driven entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* ([A/CONF.219/7](#)), chap. II.



and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,³ the Paris Agreement,⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁵ and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),⁶

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, taking note with appreciation of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in Glasgow, in partnership with the Government of Italy, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, and looking forward to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 18 November 2022,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recalling its resolution [76/216](#) of 17 December 2021,

Recalling also its decision 76/551 of 20 January 2022 on the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its resolutions [76/251](#) of 28 February 2022 on the further modalities of the Fifth Conference and [76/258](#) on the Doha Programme of Action,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/19](#) of 22 July 2022 on the programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2022–2031,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁶ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

Recalling also the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, and the adoption of its ministerial declaration, as well as the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, at which the Bridgetown Covenant was adopted,⁷

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 and [76/175](#) of 16 December 2021 on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

Recognizing that the least developed countries have been severely hit by the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic owing to the fragility of their health systems, limited access to vaccines and the slow pace of vaccinations, limited coverage of their social protection systems, limited financial and other resources, and vulnerability to external shocks,

Recognizing also that the multiple and widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change have brought about a deterioration in the situation of food security, energy security, global trade and market stability, which is putting the very viability of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 at great risk,

Recognizing further the contributions of migrants in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in both their countries of origin and destination, noting with concern the significant socioeconomic consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on migrant workers and refugees from the least developed countries, including those in the low-wage informal economy, and noting with concern that the prospects of upward growth rate of remittances are likely to moderate in 2022 in many countries, highlighting that promoting faster, safer and cheaper remittances and reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances will have positive impacts on the millions of people who depend heavily on them,

Welcoming the 2022 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries⁸ and on food insecurity in the least developed countries: options for a system of stockholding and complementary means at global, regional and subregional levels;⁹

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to take action to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,¹⁰ including by developing an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Programme of Action and integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders;

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country-level review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development

⁷ [TD/541/Add.2](#).

⁸ [A/77/73-E/2022/53](#).

⁹ [A/77/291](#).

¹⁰ Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

Cooperation Frameworks and the existing consultative mechanisms, to cover the review of the Doha Programme of Action and extend them to all least developed countries;

4. *Calls upon* development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Doha Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates, and invites those organizations to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board;

7. *Expresses deep concern* at the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the least developed countries, takes note of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on COVID-19¹¹ and commits to supporting its implementation, as appropriate, and invites development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders to support the least developed countries in their recovery efforts and continued implementation of the unfulfilled agenda of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

8. *Notes* with concern the estimates that by 2030 much of the world's poor will live in the least developed countries, which poses a major global threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, stresses the need for global support for the least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind, and further recognizes the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, protecting and promoting human rights, reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

9. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, as well as recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating situation of food security, lack of finance and energy, and increase of poverty, that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard calls upon the

¹¹ [A/74/843](#), annex, enclosure I.

international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* the commitment of development partners to ensuring the fulfilment of all ODA commitments to the least developed countries, ensuring the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national priorities and increasing the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national systems and procedures, also welcomes the decision by the European Union by which it reaffirms its collective commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertakes to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to the least developed countries, is encouraged by those that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries, and calls upon development partners to ensure that the ongoing crises, including current geopolitical developments as well as protracted conflicts in different parts of the world, austerity and inward-looking measures, and other underlying concerns related to the global economic slowdown and inflation, should in no way affect the development assistance going to the least developed countries;

11. *Welcomes* the International Monetary Fund special drawing rights allocation of the equivalent of 650 billion United States dollars of 23 August 2021 to meet the long-term global need to supplement reserve assets, expresses serious concern that the least developed countries received only a meagre share of the total special drawing rights allocation and welcomes the creation of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust through which special drawing rights can be voluntarily channelled to countries in need, calls upon the International Monetary Fund to ensure that the Resilience and Sustainability Trust is immediately operational and to work in close collaboration with the World Bank Group in implementing the Trust, welcomes the global ambition to voluntarily channel 100 billion United States dollars of unused special drawing rights to developing and least developed countries that need liquidity support and urges further pledges to meet that goal, and invites the International Monetary Fund to ensure that support from the Resilience and Sustainability Trust covers the broad range of areas for the least developed countries that are needed to enhance resilience and prospective balance of payments sustainability, delivering the scale of medium-term financing required to address them;

12. *Urges* developed country parties¹² to deliver in full on the 100 billion United States dollars goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasizes the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges, also urges the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention,¹³ multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investment in climate action, and calls for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;

13. *Underlines* the need for reinforcing the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures for the least developed countries aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a key instrument to build resilience against and mitigate the impacts of various shocks, and the commitment to making the best

¹² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

¹³ Ibid.

use of existing initiatives, and invites the Secretary-General to undertake, with the least developed countries, a comprehensive study involving all relevant United Nations development system entities and other relevant stakeholders on the existing arrangements, lessons learned and gaps identified and to submit it to the General Assembly for further consideration;

14. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

15. *Welcomes* the convening of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, and the adoption of its ministerial declaration, reiterates the call upon World Trade Organization members to make substantial progress in the implementation of ministerial decisions on duty-free and quota-free market access, preferential rules of origin, the least developed countries services waiver, and substantially increase the allocation of aid for trade to enhance their exports and economic diversification, and also calls for further analytical work and efforts to close existing data gaps to better understand the impact of rules of origin requirements and factors determining the application and underutilization of trade preferences;

16. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy, water, sanitation and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions, maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

17. *Also recognizes* that the magnitude, complexity and multidimensional nature of food insecurity in the least developed countries necessitate an array of responses employing all possible tools, including not only stockholding options but also trade measures and financial instruments to help countries to finance needed imports;

18. *Calls upon* the international community to (a) establish a food import financing facility to facilitate access by the least developed countries to credit in the event of soaring food import bills and to address supply-side shocks by providing finance to countries burdened with the necessity to import key agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, seeds and pesticides, at elevated costs; (b) establish a credit guarantee facility to support the least developed countries in gaining access to credit guarantees necessary to enter into futures and options contracts for importing basic foodstuffs; and (c) create a special food reserve system dedicated to the least developed countries within existing relevant multilateral organizations to assist in distributing food to poor people and people in vulnerable situations, when needed to respond to environmental threats, pandemics and other crises, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to further elaborate on the proposed food import financing facility, credit guarantee facility and special food reserve system for the least developed countries, outlining their modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures, and to submit his recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for consideration by the Member States;

19. *Recommits* to undertake feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and postgraduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the least developed countries and recently graduated countries with a view to, inter alia, providing policy support to promote distance

education and open learning for graduate and postgraduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ensuring a 50/50 gender balance at all levels while guaranteeing special access for the poorest and people in vulnerable situations, creating a virtual network of educational institutions within and beyond the least developed countries, assisting in course design and curriculum development, and leading to scale and sustainability of the education system, taking into account all pre-existing initiatives developed by the relevant partners in a comprehensive manner, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration;

20. *Takes note of* the convening of the Transforming Education Summit by the Secretary-General on 19 September 2022;

21. *Supports* the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a focal point for the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation, also supports the Technology Bank in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries for structural transformation and productive capacity development, invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness, and decides to strengthen collaboration among Governments, the private sector and academia to advance science, technology and innovation research and development, build inclusive digital economies and bridge the digital divide, including by facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

22. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, reiterates the decision¹⁴ to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support for investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities, improving enabling environments, and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of establishing an international investment support centre for the least developed countries in the form of a one-stop shop to mobilize support for the implementation of the investment promotion regime for the least developed countries and graduated countries, and to submit the study and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-eighth session;

23. *Also reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all people is essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

24. *Congratulates* those countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that 4 countries have graduated since 2011, another 4 have been designated to graduate by 2024 and 12 others have met the graduation criteria at least once, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant

¹⁴ Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 46.

organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

25. *Invites* the least developed countries and development partners to integrate graduation and smooth transition strategies into their respective national development and aid strategies, as appropriate, including capacity-building and technical assistance to diversify sources of financing, and welcomes United Nations Conference on Trade and Development policy brief No. 99 entitled “Strategy for graduation with momentum: bridging pre-graduation and post-graduation development processes in the least developed countries” of April 2022;

26. *Reiterates* its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed, welcomes the fact that the United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions reduced abruptly, invites development and trading partners to consider extending to graduated countries trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction, notes that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at the World Trade Organization, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category and seeks to further examine these issues, and calls upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries so as to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

27. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing, inter alia, the target of enabling 15 additional least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031;

28. *Also recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to undertake research and analytical work, monitor sectoral policy developments at the level of intergovernmental processes, follow up on actions taken at the national level, further strengthen the network of national focal points of least developed countries, develop operational guidelines for United Nations entities support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and support the graduating and graduated countries have increased;

29. *Decides* that the Office of the High Representative should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and extending effective support to the least developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for the year 2024;

30. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of

Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums and the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

31. *Notes* the substantive and organizational preparations for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023, at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in General Assembly resolutions [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/232 A](#) of 19 December 2019, [74/232 B](#) of 11 August 2020, [75/227](#) of 21 December 2020 and [76/216](#) of 17 December 2021, urges all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the preparatory process, and looks forward to its successful and ambitious outcome;

32. *Reiterates its invitation to* the Secretary-General to convene a United Nations system high-level event during the Conference, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the least developed countries;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its programme of action, objectives, key deliverables and significance;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Doha Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries”.
