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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2023

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting ([E/2023/L.24](#))]

2023/29. Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031

The Economic and Social Council,

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, and the Doha Political Declaration, adopted during the second part of the Fifth Conference, held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023,¹ in which the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States strongly committed themselves to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action throughout the coming decade, including its six priority areas,

Recalling also the strong commitment of the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States to advancing the concrete deliverables of the Doha Programme of Action with respect to the feasibility of a system of stockholding or alternative means, such as cash transfers, taking into account possible economic implications and risks, an online university or other equivalent platforms, an international investment support centre, a sustainable graduation support facility, and comprehensive multi-hazard crisis mitigation and resilience-building measures for least developed countries,

¹ *Report of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, New York, 17 March 2022, and Doha, 5–9 March 2023* ([A/CONF.219/2023/3](#)), chap. I, resolution 2.



Recalling further the progress achieved in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,² as well as where it fell short of achieving desired progress in the set goals and targets,

Reaffirming 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 tech-driven entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴ the Paris Agreement,⁵ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁶ and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),⁷

Welcoming the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁸

Looking forward to the Summit of the Future in 2024,

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

Recalling also its resolution [2023/10](#) of 7 June 2023 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fifth session,

Recalling further 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,

Recalling 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 Covenant⁹ was adopted,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight 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 COVID-19 pandemic,

² *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. II.

³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

⁴ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁵ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁶ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁷ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁸ General Assembly resolution [77/289](#), annex.

⁹ [TD/541/Add.2](#).

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 positive role and 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 least developed countries, including those in the low-wage informal economy, and noting with concern also that the growth rate of remittances is likely to slow down in 2023 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, including by adopting digital solutions and promoting digital and financial inclusion and accelerating access to transaction accounts for migrants, will have positive impacts on the millions of people who depend heavily on them,

Welcoming the 2022 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,¹⁰

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;¹¹

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for hosting the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for providing all the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

3. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries¹² in its six priority areas, namely, (a) investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind; (b) leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; (c) supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity; (d) enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration; (e) addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development; and (f) mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation;

4. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to take action to implement the Doha Programme of Action, 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;

¹⁰ A/77/534, annex.

¹¹ A/78/112-E/2023/94.

¹² General Assembly resolution 76/258, annex.

5. *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 nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development 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;

6. *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 into results and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

7. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in 2024 in close coordination and cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

8. *Calls upon* resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions, to continue to collaborate with and provide enhanced support to national-level implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action;

9. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

10. *Decides* to devote adequate time in its programme of work to discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing the least developed countries in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments set out in the Doha Programme of Action;

11. *Also decides* to continue to include periodically during its annual session an agenda item on the review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to conduct periodic reviews of progress made and constraints confronted by least developed countries to allow for focused interaction, and requests the Development Cooperation Forum to continue to review trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, including for least developed countries and graduated countries, which will be supported by reviews by the Council's functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums;

12. *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;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, broadly utilizing the coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Sustainable

Development Group, and keeping the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries active in this regard;

14. *Decides* to include the Doha Programme of Action as part of its review of the implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, including the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *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-19¹³ 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 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

16. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring the increasing availability of and equitable access to safe, effective, affordable and quality COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and other health tools to all countries, and commits to helping developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in their efforts to meet national immunization requirements, strengthen national health systems and health infrastructure, and improve their capacities for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including through efficient health financing policies and international cooperation on health;

17. *Expresses its concern* that the world is in the midst of a highly challenging environment in which global sustainable development prospects continue to diverge; stresses that, at the midpoint of the implementation timeline, the Sustainable Development Goals are facing big challenges, with only about 12 per cent on track and the rest either off track or regressed below the 2015 baseline and that, under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030; and expresses further concern that the increased pressure on food, energy and finance, elevated inflation, rising global interest rates, tightened financial conditions, high indebtedness, disruptions in supply chains, and geopolitical tensions and conflicts, together with the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and digital divides, have exacerbated challenges for many countries in addition to those associated with COVID-19 recovery, increasing hunger, and all forms of malnutrition and poverty and inequality;

18. *Notes* that the global macroeconomic outlook remains highly uncertain, and is particularly bleak for many developing countries, including a large number of least developed countries, faced with growing debt service burdens and tight fiscal constraints and that such a finance divide will, if left unaddressed, translate into a lasting sustainable development divide;

19. *Notes with concern* the estimates that by 2030 much of the world's poor will live in 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 least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

20. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, as

¹³ See [A/74/843](#), annex.

well as recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating situation of food security and nutrition, lack of finance and energy, and increase of poverty, that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard calls upon the 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;

21. *Recalls* the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Doha Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

22. *Welcomes* the increase in the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries in 2021, which reached 50.5 per cent of total expenditures at the country level, while noting that in 2012 the system contributed 52 per cent, urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries by developing operational guidelines, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

23. *Calls for* ensuring an incentive-based international support structure to graduating and graduated least developed countries, including support for their smooth transition from development and trading partners, as well as the United Nations system, to make graduation sustainable and ensure post-graduation development momentum and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Welcomes* the finding of the Committee for Development Policy concerning the benefits of updating the existing General Assembly resolutions on smooth transition, including for the purpose of providing necessary guidance on the process of extending the preparatory period preceding graduation;

25. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Doha Programme of Action into development policies, and requests the United Nations development system to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries by developing operational guidelines with clear budget targets, as appropriate;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2024 session, under the sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries” of the item entitled “Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits”, a progress report on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

*44th plenary meeting
25 July 2023*