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

Guinea:* draft resolution

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,² adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [65/280](#) of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action, and recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution [70/294](#) of 25 July 2016,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴

* 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. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

³ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁴ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.



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

Noting with great concern the threat to 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 sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Recalling its resolution [75/227](#) of 21 December 2020,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution [2021/19](#) of 21 July 2021 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further its 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 its resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19,

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

Recognizing also 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 least developed countries, including those in the low-wage informal economy, and noting with concern also the effects that the projected significant decline in remittances will have on the millions of people that depend heavily on them,

Taking note of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,⁸ on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support⁹ and on the review of the first three years of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;¹⁰

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

⁶ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁷ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁸ [A/76/71-E/2021/13](#).

⁹ [A/76/271](#).

¹⁰ [A/76/272](#) and [A/76/272/Corr.1](#).

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the least developed countries, takes note of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19),¹¹ 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 Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

3. *Calls for* intensified international cooperation, including by fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),¹² to contain, mitigate and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, including by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices and by applying the relevant guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization;

4. *Notes with concern* that estimates show that 80 per cent of the world's poor will live in fragile contexts by 2030, with a majority of them living 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 recalls the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enhancing good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthening least developed country Governments' capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

5. *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 the recent devastating impacts of COVID-19, 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 Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

6. *Takes note* of the substantive and organizational preparations for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, including the successful holding of the meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in New York, from 24 to 28 May 2021 and from 26 to 30 July 2021, and the two regional review meetings, with one meeting for the least developed countries in Africa and Haiti, jointly organized by the Government of Malawi, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Economic Commission for Africa and held in a virtual format from 22 to 26 February 2021, and one meeting for the least developed countries in Asia-Pacific and Yemen, jointly organized by the Government of Bangladesh, the Office of the High Representative and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in a hybrid format, from 30 August to 2 September 2021 in Geneva, and also takes note of the outcomes of those meetings;

7. *Reiterates* its acceptance of and appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least

¹¹ A/74/843, annex, enclosure I.

¹² World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

Developed Countries in Doha from 23 to 27 January 2022, to be held at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in its resolutions [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/232](#) A of 19 December 2019, [74/232](#) B of 11 August 2020 and [75/227](#), urges all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the preparatory process, and looks forward to its successful and ambitious outcome;

8. *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 objectives and its significance;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, a report on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh 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”;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a progress report on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures covering both graduating and recently graduated countries, including new and dedicated support measures to graduated countries in moving forward on their development path and initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category.
