



# BRAZIL

## **Africa Regional Review Meeting**

### **Preparations for the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

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ties for this document should include (i) science, technology and innovation; (ii) agriculture; and (iii) international trade.

As for the first of these issues, innovation will only thrive if LDCs have proper technological capabilities. In particular, access to digital technologies will be key in enabling LDC firms to participate in the global digital economy. This should go hand-in-hand with business and managerial capabilities, data management and dynamic marketing capabilities.

As regards agriculture, this sector accounts for more than 20% of the GDP in LDCs. The importance of agriculture for employment is especially strong in African LDCs and Haiti, where agriculture generates as much as 62% of jobs. Because of the centrality of agriculture in LDCs, agricultural transformation with enhanced productivity and efficiency can be the quickest path to poverty eradication and inclusive development. This becomes even more important in the current scenario of growing world population and increasing food insecurity and malnutrition.

LDCs have not improved their participation in world trade during the Istanbul Programme of Action, due to unfavourable commodity market conditions, according to the latest UNCTAD report. Efforts to diversify trade and strengthen infrastructure could be key in boosting this area. In addition, we must ensure that supply chains keep functioning. Unfortunately, we have witnessed, since the onset of the pandemic, trade-restrictive measures applied to agricultural products, emergency medical equipment, and now in vaccines.

Finally, the new programme of action could also set graduation strategies that ensure a smooth transition for LDCs. How a country graduates is as important as when it graduates. Support for LDCs' progress towards graduation will be key, in order to overcome the unfortunate fact that so far only six countries have graduated.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by reaffirming the importance that my Government attached to the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs and its preparatory process. I am confident that this Regional Review will provide valuable inputs for the next meetings of the Preparatory Committee, in New York, on our way towards a new programme of action for LDCs.

I thank you.