

Draft Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

Introduction -- 'From Istanbul Priorities to Doha Commitments'

1. Forty years ago in September 1981, the international community met in Paris, France for the First United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and launched the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA) for the 1980s with an ambitious objective of transforming the economies of the least developed countries (LDCs) toward self-sustained development and enabling them to provide at least internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport, communication, social infrastructure including drinking water and sanitation, housing and education as well as job opportunities to their citizens,

were increases in food insecurity and malnutrition and already

conflicts, fluctuating commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural transformation that prioritises economic diversification and tackles institutional and capacity constraints, the least developed countries will remain vulnerable to various socio-economic, health and environmental shocks.

10. We recognize that progress has been made against the IPoA in areas such as access to electricity, access to mobile telephony and mobile internet, increased enrolment of girls and boys in primary education, increased access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, and reform

20. The private sector, civil society and foundations will be encouraged to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with LDCs national priorities and in collaboration with relevant national government institutions.

21. We also underscore that good governance and the rule of law, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are crucial to the development process of the least developed countries. These efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnership.

22. We reaffirm that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development for all.

23. We recognize that investment in the care economy is needed to spur sustainable economies, restore and create jobs, recognize, reduce and redistribute women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and close the gender gap in labour force participation.

24. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Ebola outbreaks, the financial crisis and climate change have demonstrated that we live in a highly globalized and interconnected world, where a crisis or a virus in a small part of a country can spread to the whole world in a short span of time and have devastating impacts globally. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches that consider interdependencies between the health of humans, animals, and plants, and their shared environment. Looking beyond crises and bearing in mind the core principles of the 2030 Agenda, it is our shared responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind and reach the furthest behind first.

25. We will undertake actions to leverage the opportunities offered by the 226 million youth population in LDCs, who are a real agent of change for structural transformation through productive capacity development in agricultural, manufacturing, cultural and creative industries, and services sectors including tourism; building and maintaining quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to improve movement of goods and services, promoting

against any future shocks and ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation from the LDC category as well as achievement of the SDGs.

27. We affirm that the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders at all levels – local, national, international – with solutions that are context-appropriate, respond to the needs and rights of populations, in particular those furthest behind, and tap into the full diversity of existing knowledge and experience. It is, in fact, encouraging that national and local governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders have engaged with the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the objectives of the Paris Agreement and are developing innovative approaches and practices. International financial institutions and several central and national development banks have started to better reflect the Goals as a whole in their strategies and policies.

28. We note with concern that the International Support Measures that have been put in place are not sufficient to contribute to addressing the full range of needs that exist in the LDCs including the new and emerging ones. We urge the international community to fulfil their existing commitments and push beyond ‘business as usual’ to agree on innovative and effective support measures for the LDCs that contribute to closing their funding gaps in meeting the SDGs.

29. We reaffirm our commitment to a comprehensive, result-oriented, enhanced, quantifiable, forward looking and coherent renewed and strengthened global partnership for LDCs based on the principles of leaving no one behind that is fully aligned with the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). We also reaffirm our respective commitments to support the LDCs through, inter alia, fulfilling all internationally agreed goals and targets related to respective official development assistance commitments, market access, debt relief when appropriate, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, technical assistance and capacity-building. These commitments must be met, and action must be taken beyond existing commitments to bring about transformational change in LDCs. The United Nations system, including its specialized agencies, including the World Bank Group and IMF, as well as the OECD Development Assistance Committee and other relevant institutions to provide finance, technical support, assistance and policy advice to all priority areas for the LDCs, and this support will be improved including through additional concessional finance and the coordination between agencies and departments, using approaches such as the Integrated National Financing Frameworks.

30. We affirm that Governments play a very important role in articulating and implementing the policies and programmes that will support a sustainable future that leaves no one behind. National parliaments will have a great role to play in enacting legislation and allocating funds that serve all to leave no one behind, as well as holding governments to account for the commitments they have made.

31. The Programme of Action will have six key focus areas for Action as follows:

- I. Investing in people in LDCs: Eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind;

- II. Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- III. Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity;
- IV. Enhancing International trade of least developed countries and regional integration;
- V. Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic, and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development, and
- VI. Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments- A march towards sustainable graduation.

**I. Investing in people in LDCs:
Eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind**

32. We recognize that people, especially the large youth and working age population of LDCs, are critical asset for their development. It is estimated that between 2020 and 2030, the population of the LDCs will increase by 256 million reaching it to 1.3 billion people.

33. We are concerned that poverty remains a key challenge for LDCs and even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was estimated that nearly 30 per cent of the population in LDCs would remain in extreme poverty by 2030. Upward trends in extreme poverty and gender inequality in LDCs since the COVID-19 outbreak suggest compounding impacts of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

34. In addition to having a low income, people living in poverty in LDCs experience higher mortality rates, food insecurity, and all forms of malnutrition, limited or no access to quality inclusive education and health-care services and lack of access to opportunities to gain income through decent employment. Poor people in the LDCs live in underserved areas with poor infrastructure and limited access to water and sanitation and have limited access to social protection. We respect and value the diversity of situations and conditions of women and girls and recognize that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment. We also stress that, while all women and girls have the same human rights, women and girls in different contexts have particular needs and priorities, requiring appropriate responses.

35. We reaffirm our commitment to diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inclusion, identity and safety and the dignity of all people, as well as taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogenous and multicultural societies.

36. We are guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. We are further guided by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and international human rights treaties. We emphasize the importance of fundamental freedoms for eW*nB, inclusion~~on~~ational law.

services and education, knowledge and skills needed for productive capacity and full participation in the decision-making process are crucial to achieving sustainable developmen

official development assistance, domestic resources, trade and private sector financing and tax and public transfer reforms, where appropriate.

43. We commit to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector at national, sub-national and local levels in delivering inclusive social protection programmes, including by expanding the digital infrastructure and information and communication technology capabilities of the public administration, by establishing national social registry systems, enhancing and digitalizing cash transfers and payment of entitlements, and by increasing transparency and access to information.

44. We recognize the need for dealing with severe food insecurities. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of stockholding for the LDCs on a regional and sub-regional basis, or alternative means, such as cash transfer, taking into account possible economic implications, and risks and report to the General Assembly at its 77th session for its consideration.

Achieving universal access to quality education, skills and lifelong learning

45. Despite progress in increasing enrolment rates for primary education, 16.2 per cent of children in primary school age were out of school in LDCs in 2019 and almost half of children out of school in the world are in LDCs, with girls, children with disabilities and other children in vulnerable situations being disproportionately affected.

46. Enrolment and completion rates for tertiary education remain low, which has far-reaching implications for the structural transformation agenda of the LDCs. Most of them depend on aid for their education budgets. At the secondary and tertiary levels, gender disparities as well as disparities for the poorest and most vulnerable exist. Lack of economic opportunities along with poor basic facilities and infrastructure, such as the lack of access to digital technologies, internet and electricity as well as safe drinking water and sanitation facilities especially for girls, and public transport along with insufficient trained teachers and the limited or lack of adequate learning and teaching materials, seriously affect the quality of education in LDCs.

47. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schooling is a generational catastrophe. School closures brought by the pandemic have had devastating consequences for children's learning and wellbeing. Millions of children and youth are falling behind in their learning, making it even more difficult to successfully transition from education and training to employment, which will have long-term impacts on human capital, including reduced earnings and career advancements. More than a year and a half into the COVID-19 crisis, almost all learners in LDCs have faced full school closures, which also deprived them from childcare, school meals and other vital school health services noting in particular that-5(h)30(ha)4(s)29(fa)7(r)] TJETQq0.00000912 0 612 792

51. We will strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet, substantially increase access to electricity and achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all in all academic institutions in LDCs and providing digital literacy skills, technology-enabled lifelong and dynamic learning systems and human capital development by 2030.

52. We further commit to supporting the LDCs to access and effectively utilize digital tools and technologies to improve education outcomes for all learners, including through educational radio and television programmes to meet learning and educational requirements according to local context. We also commit to distributing equipment and teaching material, such as radios and textbooks, both in physical and digital formats, including to the poorest and vulnerable households, especially for girls. We further commit to supporting large-scale national efforts to utilize all forms of distance learning technology, including low-cost technology, in support of remote learning and online education including through digital technologies for better resilience in national equitable and efficient education systems as well as training to develop the digital skills of students and educators.

53. We recognize the importance of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and global citizenship education (GCED) in helping countries to sustainable and inclusive recovery after COVID-19, we will strengthen ESD and GCED in the period 2021-2030.

54. We will encourage interaction, collaboration and exchange programmes of students as well as the sharing of scientific studies and research papers between academic institutions of LDCs and the rest of the world. We commit to substantially expanding globally the number of scholarships, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and youth to address inequality and drive economic growth

56. Women and girls continue to face barriers such as lack of access to inclusive and quality education and digital skills, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels, and access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and lack of access to social protection, decent work and opportunities in the labour market, and are subjected to harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage; gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and harmful practices. Women were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic including in terms of loss of jobs, income and livelihoods while continuing to bear the disproportionate brunt of unpaid care and domestic work. Investments and a focus on the rights of women and girls are required to provide and enable access to inclusive and quality education, social protection, online services to health, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, to property and capital and productive assets throughout the life-course, to ensure financial inclusion through expanding access to financial services such as credit; and to eliminate harmful practices and all forms of violence. Together, these actions will help to address barriers to women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in all spheres of society, including in decision making, and leadership, in order to achieve gender equality and empower women and

and economic opportunities, expand access to gender-sensitive social protection and ensuring women's full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, cultural, economic, and public life, including through institutional reforms and policies against multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. We commit to supporting mechanisms that provide access to finance for women for both personal and business use.

59. We commit to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation as well as all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation through the development, implementation and enforcement of appropriate policies and laws.

60. We commit to establishing inclusive and gender responsive support programmes to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict LDCs, and to assist victims and survivors of sexual violence including through long-term health-care services, psychosocial support, access to justice and safe accommodation and shelter and inclusion in peace-building initiatives.

61. We commit to providing access to family planning to all women in LDCs and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Population and health

62. We note that the LDCs have the fastest growing populations globally rising at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent and many are projected to double in population between 2019 and 2050. Appropriate policies and measures need to be put in place to leverage the potentials offered by the demographic dividends.

63. We will work together to support acceleration of demographic transition, where relevant, and champion the importance of increased investments in human development, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, and public services, infrastructure and job creation that keep pace with population growth and create [() TJET[()]1-0912 0 612 792 reW*nBT/F6 12 Tf1

65. Target:

- i. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and nutrition, access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines, diagnostics, vaccines and other health technologies for all.
- ii. Reduce maternal deaths and eliminate preventable maternal, infant and child deaths and improve access to affordable quality health-care services.
- iii. Ensure birth registration to all newborns in LDCs and provide a national legal identity to them.

We commit to take the following actions:

66. We commit to providing financial and technical support and investment in promoting and empowering education and training, in tandem with job creation, for the burgeoning young people in LDCs to leverage the opportunities presented by the demographic dividend but also to enable children and youths, especially girls and young women to develop their personalities, talents and abilities and to participate fully into society. LDCs, with the support of their development partners, will upgrade science and technology-based education system that leads to dynamic and emerging critical thinking skills of the young generation and ensure their successful integration into national and international labour markets, with full and productive employment and decent work for all.

67. We commit to providing necessary financial and technical support for LDCs to strengthen integrated and inclusive national health systems, and the design, implementation of and access to modern health infrastructure and systems, which is accessible to all members of the population, develop adequate skilled professionals and medical facilities and supplies, strengthen health-care information systems and use of disaggregated data for decision making, improve essential integrated health-care 450(va)4(c)] TJETQq0.000009th deinveQq0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*ñBT/F6 12 Tf1 0

integrated

Water, sanitation and hygiene

75. The proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water services was 64.6 per cent in 2018, with 84.1 per cent access in urban areas compared to 55 per cent of the population with access in rural areas. Access to basic sanitation services remains very low in the LDCs at an average 34% of the population, in particular in rural areas.

76. Target:

- i. Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, and access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all in LDCs by 2030.

We commit to taking the following actions:

76. Reaffirming the importance of regional and international cooperation for safe drinking water and sanitation, we commit to expanding international cooperation and capacity-building support, for accelerating access to inclusive, affordable and climate- resilient water and sanitation services and improving institutional capacity and increasing access to technology to develop water and sanitation infrastructure in the LDCs and develop water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including development and implementation of integrated water resources management interventions and wastewater treatment solutions. We also commit to providing access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities for all with particular attention to women and girls in terms of the provision of safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable

slums; and sustainable transport and communication systems for all. In this regard, we further reaffirm the need to take account of the special needs of LDCs devastated by natural and man-made hazards and conflict.

80. We commit to supporting LDCs, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable, culturally sensitive and resilient housing utilizing local materials and increasing affordable housing, including by leveraging public-private partnerships and sharing good practices among LDCs.

Migration and mobility

81. We recognize that migrants make positive contributions to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit, and destination, and to the response and recovery to the crisis caused by COVID-19. We duly acknowledge that migrants face significant barriers to safe and secure movement and livelihoods, which in turn expose them to additional risks and vulnerabilities.

82. *Targets:*

- i. Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed m

and is critical to equipping them with the necessary life-saving and -enhancing knowledge and skills.

85. We encourage investing in innovative solutions that facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers at all skills levels, and promote demand-driven skills development to optimize the employability of migrants in formal labour markets in countries of destination and in countries of origin upon return, as well as to ensure decent work in labour migration.

86. We encourage appropriate steps to ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of migrants in the development of local solutions and opportunities, as well as efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration and to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls, particularly migrant women employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work, to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants.

87. We invite the international community and all relevant stakeholders, without prejudice to ongoing support, to cooperate and mobilize resources and expertise, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations, and countries of origin of refugees, including LDCs, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees and displaced persons in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations while fully respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality for humanitarian action.

88. We commit to designing and implementing policies and measures supporting the outward and inward mobili

and strengthen least developed country Governments' capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development.478.87 653.62 Tm0 giv0 /P AMCID 2>BDC q0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBT

91. We reaffirm the importance of the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in Article 2.1 of the United Nations Charter. Broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of LDCs in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governa

product was 0.6 per cent or less between 2011-2017, compared with around 2 per cent of developed countries' much larger gross domestic product. According to the data compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), from 2010 to 2018, the number of patent applications filed by LDCs residents has doubled, from 835 to 1,634. But, as a share of patents globally, the figure is almost zero. The LDCs published only 11 journal articles for every 1 million people in 2018.

Key Action Areas

Access to modern te

- vii. Build human capital through skills development, including digital skills and literacy, and expand professional competencies.
- viii. Mitigate negative impacts of emerging, new and disruptive technologies.

We commit to take the following actions:

110. We commit to supporting LDCs in formulating comprehensive national regulatory frameworks, quality, reliable sustainable and resilient physical infrastructure and inclusive digital ecosystems and formulating effective policies on STI, trade, investment, industry, employment and education that accelerates the implementation of SDGs, reduce all types of inequalities, and build resilience against shocks.

111. We commit to providing universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries, addressing the challenges associated with affordability in internet access to ensure benefits of new technologies are available to all, and promoting an enabling environment for digital development, access, and productive usage for LDCs through international support, as well as transparent, predictable, independent and non-discriminatory regulations and promotion of competitive market so that operators compete for low-use customers through a variety of internet plans that cater to different income levels and improve rural coverage through universal service funds.

112. We commit to identifying underserved communities, and support LDCs to integrate a strategic approach to inclusive and sustainable models of last-mile connectivity and national broadband plans in order to promote digital access for the poor, excluded and those in vulnerable situations including women and girls. We commit to helping LDCs build their digital innovation capacity in order to navigate future technological changes and to ensure sustainable capacity and leverage the workforce, promote access to technological knowledge, and nurture competitive industries power.

113. We commit to supporting LDCs to build capacity and a framework to scale up development, deployment, and sustainable utilization of emerging technologies for the SDGs and incorporate them into agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors.

114. We commit to strengthening the science-policy interface and expanding LDCs knowledge and understanding of and access to

economic benefits, and underline that the same human rights that people have offline must be protected online.

116. We commit to enhancing LDCs' cybersecurity awareness to better protect all people, including inclusion of those in vulnerable situations, such as children, youth, elderly, women, and persons with disabilities. We also commit to supporting LDCs to develop their cybersecurity capacity development programs, including primary, secondary, and tertiary education and industry professional training on technical and managerial skills, with the inclusion of women and youth in the cybersecurity field.

117. We commit to providing necessary financial and technical support to LDCs to establish and strengthen national and regional science institutes to increase their capacity for research and development in science, technology and innovations and promote adaptation and application of modern technologies for domestic uses. We also commit to promote local innovation capabilities of LDCs for inclusive and sustainable economic development by providing enhanced technical support and assistance to enable stakeholders in the LDCs to leverage intellectual property successfully for growth, competitiveness and development, and bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge. We commit to addressing gender inequality by enhancing participation and leadership of women and girls in the design, development and deployment of science, technology and innovation activities.

118. We commit to supporting LDCs to move away from low value-added natural resources and low-

ii. Ensure universal and affordable access to, and

Promoting private sector engagement, digitalization and broadband connectivity

127. We

III. Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity

133. The initiation of a sustained process of structural transformation remains a critical challenge for LDCs. Their economies are largely undiversified, highly dependent on commodities and external assistance and at the bottom of regional and global value chains. The high-productivity manufacturing and services have miniscule contribution to gross domestic product in LDCs. Thus country-specific industrial policy is necessary. While the agriculture sector employs more than half the population, it is characterized by subsistence practices with low levels of value addition per worker, and inadequate access to both national, regional and global markets.

134. The services sector directly contributes to structural transformation. However, it contributes less than half of GDP in many LDCs, the bulk of tertiary employment is concentrated in less knowledge-intensive services and participation in global export of commercial services is negligible. We underline the importance of country-specific policies supported by an international enabling environment to promote, establish and enhance a domestic services sector.

135. For LDCs to fully utilize their potential, we commit to promoting the achievement of inclusive and sustainable structural transformation capable of increasing productivity and growth, reducing their disaster risk, including exposure and vulnerabilities to existing and future external shocks. We will create decent full employment and decent jobs, eradicate poverty and ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

Key Action Areas

Productive capacity building

136. Many LDCs economies feature limited productive capacities, which constrains their ability to produce efficiently and effectively, to diversify their economies and to create sustainable and productive employment. This challenge translates into binding supply constraints and ultimately into weak export and economic potentials and limited productive employment generation and social development prospects. To build and enhance productive capacities at the country level, each LDC with the support of development partners is encouraged to undertake National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments to analyze the key constraints in building productive capacities and achieving SDGs.

137. *Targets:*

- i. Generate quality, employment opportunities for all and increase labour productivity by 50 per cent by 2031 with particular attention to the integration of women, young people, and those in vulnerable situations.
- ii. Substantially increase economic and export diversification with a view to reaching the level of other developing countries in export concentration by 2030.
- iii. Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, double industry's share of employment and gross domestic product in LDCs.

We commit to taking the following actions:

138. We commit to promoting and supporting the formulation of national strategies aimed at increasing decent employment, diversification, economic transformation, value addition, efficiency, and competitiveness in the manufacturing, agriculture, and services sectors, as well as life-cycle approaches, with a cross-cutting focus on sustainability; and call for enhancing financial and technical support as well as policy space from all sources to facilitate the implementation of these strategies.

139. LDCs commit to create a conducive policy environment for industrial diversification and value addition, including strengthening efforts to accelerate capital accumulation, building institutional and human capacities and knowledge development. We support improved data collection to better understand productivity levels and trends and better inform policies to drive productivity shifts.

140. We encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship, and the use of modern, sustainable, cost-effective, and locally adapted technologies and practices, with an emphasis on the manufacturing, agriculture, and services sectors, including tourism, information and communications, and finance, and call for sharing of scientific knowledge and innovative technologies on mutually agreed terms.

141. We take note of the call for enhancing support towards establishing or upgrading quality assurance and standards of products and services in LDCs to meet international standards.

of LDCs requires a conducive business ecosystem with strong and well-equipped business support organizations and business friendly policies, regulatory frameworks and export strategies to facilitate MSMEs access to markets. We will support and empower MSMEs and entrepreneurs in LDCs with a view to bringing about inclusive growth and prosperity.

145. We reaffirm the importance of human capacity as a critical factor for the utilization of other productive capacities and call for increasing responsible public and private investment, including through international cooperation, in human capacity development and skills development to increase productive capacities and the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for full and productive employment and decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

Infrastructure Development

146. LDCs continue to face huge quality infrastructure gaps in particular regarding access to energy, transport and information and communication technologies and lack the capacity to maintain existing infrastructure and fully address the gaps. The G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment promote enhanced efforts and support towards quality infrastructure development consistent with international standards, including through improved coordination between public and private investment, which is fundamental to close the infrastructure gap.

a) Transport

147. Despite efforts made, LDCs continue to face inefficient, unreliable physical transport infrastructure, due to high costs, lack of investment, poor maintenance, and lack of institutional capacity and stable policy and regulatory environments. The establishment of a safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport system including rail transport, road transport, seaports, and air transport

with access to clean fuel for cooking as low as 7% and several LDCs have overall access to clean cooking equal to or less than 5%.

155. **Targets:**

- i. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services
Double the generation of electricity per capita in LDCs by 2030
- iii. Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix [SDG 7.2]
- iv. Double finance from all sources in support of clean and renewable energy; and

160. We commit to promoting public and pr

166. ***Target:***
- i. Significantly increase the value added and manufactured component of the LDCs exports, with the objective of integrating into the regional and global value chains.

We commit to take the following actions:

167. We call for greater integration of

172. We commit to fostering economic activity and ease of doing business for private companies by promoting domestic market and capital formation, economic clusters hubs/industry parks/export processing zones that remove obstacles to investments and infrastructure usage and enable simpler facilitation of business operations and trade and support LDCs in the implementation of such measures. We will also support MSMEs to enter into national, regional and global value chains by taking steps to close digital divides through financial support and access to appropriate digital tools and platforms connecting markets.

173. We commit to strengthening cooperation for cross-fertilization of experiences and dissemination of best practices that foster entrepreneurship, promote dialogue and contacts, and stimulate transfer of skills and technology, on mutually agreed terms.

174. We support provision of finance, including grant, technical assistance, seed funding, as well as concessional financing, from donor countries, UN entities, World Bank Group and IMF and the private sector, in order to leverage additional sources of finance for MSMEs to facilitate their growth and development. In this regard, we commit to promoting regular public-private sector dialogues.

190. We recognize that the agreements on trade in services enable liberalization of services across all modes of supply and help boost trade in services and attract investment as well as enable safe, regular and orderly mobility, including by removing barriers to the temporary movement of natural persons to supply services abroad, or “Mode 4” of trade in services. We note that efforts are being made to improve LDC participation in services trade. We note that 51 members (including individual EU member states) have notified their preferences under the LDCs Services Waiver. We note that multilateral commitments in this regard have been limited and conditioned by measures such as economic needs tests, quotas, or pre-employment requirements.

191. ***Target:***

- i. Increase LDCs’ exports of services by fully implementing the WTO Ministerial Decision on the Operationalization of the Waiver Concerning Preferential

work together to address trade finance gaps, by enabling a rapid transition to paperless trading and addressing regulatory constraints that hinder trade finance.

196. Acknowledging and building on achievements made so far, including by the Enhanced Integrated Framework and other agencies providing support to LDCs, we commit to providing trade-related assistance, financial and technical support to enhance the institutional and productive capacity of the LDCs, in line with the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

197. We note that 35 out of 46 LDCs, more than three quarters,

We commit to taking the following actions:

203. We reiterate the importance of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement to provide incentives by developed country members to the enterprises and institutions in their territories for promoting technology transfer to enable LDCs to create a sound and viable technological base and take note of the recent discussions on this article, in particular on the meaning of “incentives to enterprises and institutions”.

204. We acknowledge the importance of the TRIPS flexibilities available to LDCs, including the extensions of the general transition period under Art. 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement and of the transition period under Article 66.1 which provides that LDC Members will not be obliged, with respect to pharmaceutical products, to implement or apply Sections 5 (patents) and 7 (protection of undisclosed information) of Part II of the TRIPS Agreement or to enforce rights provided for under these Sections until 1 January 2033, or until such a date on which they cease to be an LDC Member, whichever date is earlier.

208. We note that while the current TFA implementation rate stands at 70.2 per cent for all World Trade Organization members, the implementation rate of LDCs is only 36.8 per cent, as of 10 June 2021. We also take note that 80 per cent of LDCs have already identified their technical assistance needs. We also note that there are several challenges for LDCs to implement the agreement primarily due to financial, technical, and regulatory capacity constraints.

209. ***Target:***

- i. Fully implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement and provide assistance and support for capacity building of LDCs in this regard according to development cooperation effectiveness principles.

We

214. We will contribute to strengthening e-commerce in LDCs by building digital eco-system and providing capacity building support. We urge development partners to provide additional and substantial support to LDCs to build and access to required infrastructure in energy, electricity, digital infrastructure; promote personal data protection; upgrade workforce skills, ensure affordable and reliable access to broadband and mobile networks and Wi-Fi connectivity,

emergencies, across all sectors, using holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches, recognizing the interconnectedness between the health of humans, animals, plants and their shared environment including through collaboration among WHO, FAO, OIE and UNEP.

225. Among more than 120 countries reporting across all Sendai Framework targets for disaster losses in 2019, LDCs account for 48 per cent of livelihood disruptions, 40 per cent of deaths, 17 per cent of economic losses, and 14 per cent of infrastructure damage, although their combined gross domestic product

Building sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 and resilience against futu

infrastructure and the built environment; catalytic concessional financing for MSMEs; sustainable finance instruments such as green bonds and Sustainable Development Goal bonds; incentives for private investment in sustainable opportunities such as: affordable renewable energies; sustainable waste management; shock-responsive supply chains; lifecycle approaches and safe, smart and sustainable mobility.

238. We commit to enhance cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to address antimicrobial resistance, using an integrated and systems-based one-health approach, including through health system strengthening, capacity-building, including for research and regulatory capacity, and technical support and ensure equitable access to affordable, safe, effective and quality existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics as well as effective stewardship.

Climate adaptation and building resilience including sustainable management of natural resources

239. While LDCs have made some progress with the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and in implementing the Sendai Framework, they often lack the resources and capacity to address critical needs. Adaptation and resilience in food systems, including

- ii. Develop and strengthen national and regional platforms and strategies for disaster risk reduction to take actions to achieve the Sendai Framework targets.
- iii. Support and reinforce, as appropriate, the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience building measures for LDCs.
- iv. Continue to support the development and implementation of adaptation communications, strategies, and plans, including those that may be included as components of Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term strategies under the Paris Agreement.

We commit to take the following actions:

242. We commit to continue and strive for increased support, including for capacity building for adaptation planning and We

248.

in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances. We further welcome the establishment of a work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade, as well as the convening of an annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, beginning at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

252. We welcome that the Parties¹² urged developed country Parties to fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025, and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges; and that they urged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action, and call 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 (27 y- 28 GCP).

257. We will continue to support the development of approaches in LDCs for dealing with adaptation including on nature-based solutions or eco-system based approaches, adaptation in cities, while including the most disproportionately affected people such as youth, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and girls, and with a focus on the development of essential climate resilience programmes around food systems, water resources, health services, living spaces/settlements and critical infrastructure.

258. We will continue to enhance regional cooperation and support to LDCs in addressing the impacts of regional transboundary climate risks associated with supply and value chains.

259. We request relevant entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and development banks as well as private sector and foundations to continue supporting LDCs to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

264. We acknowledge that LDCs are largely dependent on public resources to finance sustainable development needs and ensure a smooth transition from the least developed countries category. Available resources – domestic and external, public, and private - have not been sufficient to meet growing investment and spending needs. The high reliance of LDCs on external resources, including official development assistance, foreign direct investment, concessional lending, and private flows, such as remittances and portfolio investment, persisted over the past decade. During the IPoA implementation period, external debt has been rising, and it is, in some cases, exacerbated by large costs caused by disasters and structural vulnerabilities. The pandemic and its economic fallout have exacerbated financial vulnerabilities and debt risks in least developed countries that have been building up over the last decade.

265. We welcome progress made over the past decade with respect to graduation and stress that continued support and incentives will be important to accelerate the number of least developed countries reaching the graduation thresholds and for ensuring sustainable and irreversible graduation with momentum.

266. We aim to support LDCs to achieve at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in LDCs and graduating countries and growth in the disposable income of households in the bottom half of the income distribution.

Key Action Areas

Support for domestic resource mobilization and fight-against illicit financial flows

267. We acknowledge that the low tax-to-gross domestic product ratios of LDCs can be

We commit to take the following actions:

270. We call upon LDCs to make substantial efforts to effectively mobilize domestic resources, build up financial infrastructure and capacities, and put in place appropriate regulatory measures and institutions; continue taking measures to create conditions for attracting and sustaining investments and mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private; continue undertaking necessary fiscal reforms, as appropriate, to build effective, transparent, fair and accountable national tax and financial management systems, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda . We call upon development partners and relevant institutions to enhance support for development and

targeting those enterprises and to create, strengthen, and widen lending markets that cater to the diversified needs of private enterprises, MSMEs, and consumers, including women.

276. We commit to substantially reducing illicit financial flows in order to help LDCs to mobilize resources, including through increased international cooperation to stem corruption, money laundering and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets and their return to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to developing their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation, facilitate customs services and investigate and prosecute offences to contribute to the success of efforts to reducing illicit financial flows derived from crimes.

277. We call upon all countries and relevant institutions to implement measures to enhance disclosure practices and promote transparency in financial information and enhance disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries and cooperate in efforts to reduce illicit financial flows, and corruption.

International public and external finance to contribute to sustainable development in least developed countries

278. We note with appreciation that official development assistance to LDCs by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries increased in real terms from 2011 to 2019 by around 4.6 per cent

We commit to take the following actions:

282. We commit to ensuring the fulfilment of all ODA commitments to least developed countries and ensuring the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national priorities and increase the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national systems and procedures. We welcome the decision by the European Union which reaffirms its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertakes to reach 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda. We encourage ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries. We are encouraged by those who are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries.

283. We invite development partners to ensure that the allocation of global ODA resources takes into account the structural handicaps and constraints which are unique to LDCs. We call upon development partners to ensure the right balance in the allocation of ODA fostering sustainable development in its three dimensions, including economic, social and environmental, and in various sectors, as well as for building resilience against various shocks and for empowerment of women.

284. We call upon the countries of the Global South to further strengthen their support provided to LDCs in all these areas in a predictable manner along the lines of the outcome document of the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

285. We urge development partners to assure multilateral, regional and national development banks facing capital constraints to have a solid financial position to provide necessary and timely support, including concessional finance of MDBs to LDCs through simplified access process. We welcome the advancement of IDA's 20th replenishment and call for further initiatives by the international community.

286. We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to

288. We encourage innovative finance, including blended finance, to aim to leverage additional, substantial, predictable

307. We decide to support incentive programmes to ensure that remittances are used for long-term investments in productive capacity building in LDCs, such as MSMEs, and ensure that women and men are engaged as equal partners and beneficiaries. We will also support efforts to more easily link remittances to other financial services such as savings, credit, insurance and

implementation of smooth transition strategies so as to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance, special and differential treatments, aid for trade or other technical and financial assistance provided. This includes the need for better planning and coordination of transition finance by ODA providers both during preparatory period and in the post-graduation phase.

314. We reiterate our conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed. We welcome that the UN graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions abruptly reduced. We invite development and trading partners to consider extending to the graduated country 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. We take note that the LDC group put forward

- Consider extending access to dedicated funds for tackling adverse impacts of climate change; vertical funds such as Gavi; Aid for Trade; and Technology Bank for LDCs for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner.

318. We welcome the work of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on LDC Graduation, led by OHRLLS, to provide strengthened and coordinated UN System-wide support to the countries graduating from the LDC category and invite OHRLLS to advocate for appropriate predictable and additional incentives and support measures for graduating and recently graduated countries and mobilize additional international support for the implementation of the smooth transition strategies. We invite all relevant UN entities to collaborate under the UN Inter-Agency Task Force and develop operational guidelines for their support to least developed countries, including assistance to graduating countries.

319. ~~We welcome the establishment of a Sustainable~~ Graduation Support Facility (SGF), jointly by the OHRLLS as Chair of the UN Inter Agency Task Force on LDC graduation and UN DESA as the Secretariat for the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP), as a concrete country-led solution of dedicated capacity development support. We call on member states to support this initiative operationalized under the umbrella of the UN Inter Agency Task Force to further strengthen coordinated and coherent UN System support and bring together country-specific integrated graduation-related advisory and capacity building services. ~~the 2012-13 UN Doc E/2012/12/Annex~~

reliable data is for policy making. Inclusive data is required to understand the differential impacts of the pandemic and address its economic and social effects, especially for people in vulnerable situations.

323. Target:

- i. Significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely reliable and disaggregated data.

We commit to take the following actions:

324. We commit to further strengthen traditional data sources, such as surveys and administrative records, complemented by new sources, and continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable data for better monitoring and policymaking to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Doha Programme of Action.

325. We commit to providing financial support, equipment and infrastructure and technical assistance to strengthen capacities and capabilities of national statistical offices as well as monitoring policies of LDCs and fill data gaps with responsible, open and inclusive data that takes into account diversity in programming. In this regard, we recognize that modernizing population data systems, through improving civil registration and vital statistics systems and geospatial information sources must be a priority to prepare for future disasters and make progress on the SDGs.

Implementation, follow-up, and monitoring

326. Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms adapted at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels are crucial for the successful implementation of this Programme of Action and fully aligned with existing frameworks such as the SDGs. National, regional and global mechanisms should be mutually complementary and reinforcing. Necessary steps will be taken to ensure mutual accountability of LDCs and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under this Programme of Action.

327. National-level arrangements are particularly important, as the Programme of Action is owned and led by the LDCs themselves. At the national level, each LDC Government should develop an ambitious national implementation strategy of the Programme of Action and integrate the provisions of this Programme of Action into its national policies and development and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation framework and conduct regular reviews, which are country-led and country-driven, with the full involvement of all key stakeholders. Existing country review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, poverty reduction strategy papers, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms should be broadened to cover the review of this Programme of Action and extended to all LDCs. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.

328. We call on the entities of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to actively support the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs at the national, subregional,

regional and global levels, in close cooperation and partnerships with the World Bank and the international financial and development institutions, and to integrate this programme of action into their strategic plans and annual work programmes and reporting at all levels and further calls on the entities of the United Nations development system to support the Resident Coordinators in the LDCs and to assist them in the mainstreaming of the Programme of Action into development planning at the country level in a coordinated and cohesive manner.

329. We invite Resident Coordinator and UN 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 support to national follow-up and monitoring.

330.

of this Programme of Action. Periodic reviews of progress made, and constraints confronted by least developed countries should be conducted by the Economic and Social Council to allow for focused interactions. Th

Programme of Action for the least developed countries at the country, regional and global levels aligned with the 2030 Agenda,

(ii) assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action for least developed countries.

(iii) strengthen its awareness-raising and advocacy works in favor of least developed countries in partnership with the relevant part of the United Nations System, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and

(iv) undertake research and analytical works to provide substantive support to LDCs in group consultations and their participation in other intergovernmental meetings and conferences to

344. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should continue to address the challenges faced by least developed countries through conducting intergovernmental consensus-