



**Preparatory Committee
for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
Organizational session**

**STATEMENT
by H.E. Ambassador Ion I. JINGA
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Mr. Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset of the preparations for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, that will take place in January 2022, I would like to congratulate the Co-Chairs and the other members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for their election and to wish them full success in their endeavor.

Romania align itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. I would like now to make few remarks in my national capacity.

The pandemic has reinforced the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of the Paris Agreement and of the Istanbul Program of Action for the LDCs. The 47 countries are among the most vulnerable members of the international community. They are home for 900 million people, half of which live below the poverty line.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown how deep inequalities make society as a whole more vulnerable, and offered important lessons for building resilience in an era of climate change. People most exposed to the coronavirus pandemic and to the resulting economic crisis are largely those who are also most vulnerable to climate change impacts, among them the lower-income and disadvantaged people, including women, elderly and informal workers.

The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, where we will agree a new Program of Action for the LDCs, is therefore expected to be a major milestone in the efforts of the LDCs and their partners to overcome these difficult times, including the COVID-19 crisis.

The Preparatory Committee needs to build on the results of the recent reviews conducted by the LDCs. The two upcoming regional review meetings that will take place in collaboration with

