

“Accelerated implementation of the Doha Programme of Action to overcome the impacts of the ongoing crises and regain momentum in achieving the SDGs in LDCs.”

, opened the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the LDCs and expressed appreciation to the high level of participation of Ministers of LDCs and their partners. She thanked the co-facilitators, Canada and Bangladesh and stressed that the DPoA, if timely implemented, has the potential to bring transformational change to the LDCs. She also expressed her appreciation to Qatar for hosting LDC5. She noted in March 2023, the international community will have an opportunity to bolster political will to implement the DPoA, to establish numerous partnerships on a global scale, and for LDCs to make the desired progress.

She noted that LDCs exports sectors experienced a major setback, with a reduction of 25% in 2020. LDCs share of global exports fell to 0.9% in 2020. The export performance of LDCs has

noted the food crisis, energy crisis and financial crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine and stressed that the world is in turmoil and that the pandemic is clearly not over and that the LDCs are most negatively impacted. She noted that persistent vulnerabilities of LDCs remain unchecked, will be the battle

She reminded the audience of the importance of the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. With the Programme of Action already adopted, the Doha Conference offers a unique opportunity to focus on implementation. That included the focus on key deliverables such as: an online university, an investment support center, food stockholding, a new resilience building mechanism and graduation support facilities.

She welcomed the extraordinary support that we have received from the Government of Qatar in preparation of Conference, and the implementation of the DPoA. She expressed her gratitude for the commitment of HH the Emir, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, as well as the Minister of State of Qatar. She also reiterated the strong leadership and support of Ambassador Al-Thani to make the LDC5 an historical event, and recognized the extraordinary role played by the bureau of LDCs under the leadership of Malawi.

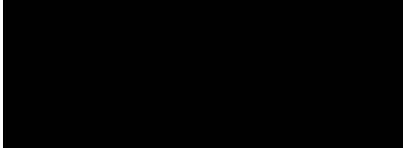
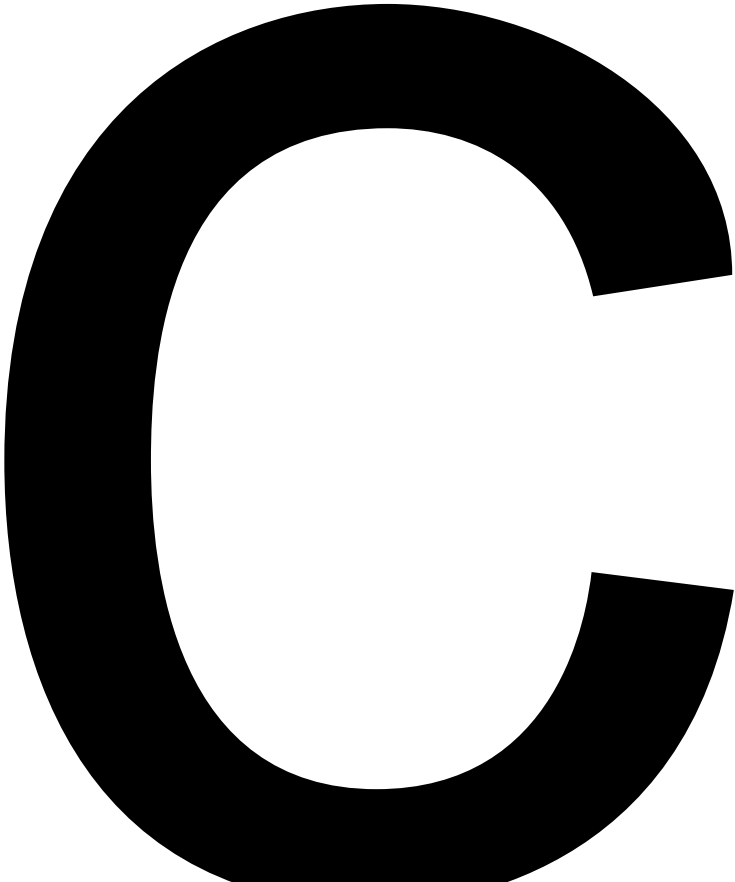
noted the fragility of the LDCs and in the face of global crises that could derail our ambitions reflected in the DPoA. The Minister commended OHRLLS and recalled the meeting of the national focal point in Rwanda. He highlighted the main priorities of the Medium Term National Development Plan of Sierra Leone, which focuses on human capital development with strong emphasis on education, health, and food security as well as economic diversification, sustainable energy, transport, and ICT infrastructure and disaster management. He expressed his hope for stronger continuous commitment from Global Development stakeholders, including co26.1 take

participation of several of the LDCs and SIDS. Supporting peace and democratic societies is one of the four pillars of Finland's development cooperation strategy. To this end, the Minister for Foreign Affairs together with the University of Helsinki, Rule of Law Center, is supporting developing countries to build their institutions for the rule of law as the foundation of a peaceful and just society. Finland welcomed the focus on the DPOA on STI and noted they allocated 70 million euros to the intersection of technology, innovation and gender equality to support the digital safety of women and women, human rights defenders and to enhance the digital literacy of women and girls.

welcomed the work of the IAFT on graduation and particularly on the establishment of the Sustainable graduation Support Facility. Bhutan called for strengthening the resources of OHRLLS. Bhutan noted that this may be one of the last times we will participate in this group as we are set to graduate in 2023. However, the pandemic has revealed the high vulnerabilities that Bhutan and other LDCs face to external shocks. The situation is further exacerbated by the geopolitical tension and climate induced disasters, leading to disruptions of food supply, increasing fuel price impacting the LDCs the most. While Bhutan wants to graduate sustainably, there is a need to institute long term transformative and green solutions for the economy and to better prepare for future pandemics and disasters through renewed focus on expanding the productive capacity of our economies to achieve meaningful structural transformation to spur growth across all spheres of sustainable development. In this regard, the potential of science technology and innovation, particularly digital technologies that could enable us to leapfrog must be harnessed. Climate change remains the biggest single threat to sustainable development.

underscored that all international

Partnership that is more robust and can catalyze development, and recognized the role of the UN system as a key partner in achieving this. The Government of Burkina Faso adopted a new development plan which is in line with its various other frameworks and actions. It is estimated that the National Development Plan will require eight 11.8 billion CFA francs, which is not fully financed from the national budget, thus support from partners will be critical. External support is estimated to represent 25% of the budget for the National Development Plan. Given the importance of this plan in a context characterized by a security humanitarian and food crises, Burkina Faso called for solidarity from Member States in the context of south-



for strengthened and inclusive global partnerships that are genuine remain essential Financing for Development remains a crucial means of implementation for all areas of development. He welcomed the work on the multi-dimensional vulnerability index and look forward to its finalization to allow for vulnerability to be taken into consideration in assessment for accessing development financing. He noted the need for investment and support of the international community for the implementation of the DPoA to be more effective and targeted, moving away from soft technical assistance to concrete and tangible investment that can foster transformative change and help build resilience.

welcomed the adoption of the DPoA and stressed that they need to work very hard to ensure the Conference in Doha becomes concrete regarding its implementation. As a strong sign of the commitment of the European Union, the Council of Minister of the EU adopted a conclusion in support of the EU's relationship with the LDCs. The Council stressed (1) the need to strengthen effective multilateralism and to collectively promote sustainable international partnerships; (2) the European development banks and financial institutions commitments to the implementation of the DPoA; (3) reaffirmed their commitment to collectively meeting the target of 0.2% of gross national income to LDCs by 2030 and (4)

disruptions in food and commodity supply chains. India has also been providing financial and food assistance to countries in need.

expressed concern that world today faces its highest number of conflicts since 1942, with around 2 billion people, mostly from LDCs, living in fragile and conflict zones. She noted that food security in LDCs is a particular concern, due to climate change, COVID-19 and other challenges. She mentioned that Turkey facilitated the Istanbul Deal to ship grain out of Ukraine. She emphasized that LDCs should be able to access low-cost financing and have more liquidity to help their development, pointing out that 60 per cent of LICs are in debt distress or at high risk. On behalf of Turkey, she invited partners to support the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, in order to leverage the power of science, technology and innovation to create structural transformation in LDCs. The ambassador expressed Turkey's support for Qatar and other partners in their efforts to put the recovery of LDCs at the heart of the global agenda.

highlighted the importance of this meeting for coordinating views at a very difficult time, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They emphasized that progress on the Sustainable Development Goals has been slow for the LDCs. They explained that nationally, Sudan has set up a process to monitor implementation of the SDGs. The representative noted that Sudan is facing many problems, including political complications and environmental and climate challenges. They called upon the UN and partners to provide necessary assistance at this critical time. They are pleased that Qatar will host the LDC5 Conference and trust it will be important moment for support to the LDCs.

noted that the DPoA priority action areas remain critical as they seek to accelerate economic and social transformation and generate momentum for the decade of action to achieve the SDGs and leaving no one behind. She emphasized that investing in people and fostering productive capacity through science, technology, and innovation will help LDCs overcome economic transformation barriers and transition to more sustainable growth, which will lift people out of extreme poverty. She mentioned that Timor Leste's strategic development plan will help youth gain access to education, reduce poverty and lead to a healthier society. Infrastructure investment for economic growth, private sector growth to support economic diversification and create jobs in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and manufacturing, are all priorities for Timor Leste. The financial and economic reforms involve strengthening the SME sector and removing some constraints to promote private sector growth. She mentioned that international assistance to increase investment in key productive sectors and to deploy financial flows in LDCs is critical. Timor Leste aims to attract foreign direct investment and to support private sector development. The Minister emphasized the importance of regional integration as well as South-South and triangular cooperation in advancing

development in LDCs. She explained that Timor Leste recently co-organized a workshop with UN ESCAP on strengthening the capacity of Asia-Pacific LDCs to achieve the sustainable development goals through structural transformation and regional cooperation.

explained that although the international community has implemented programmes of action for decades since 1981, LDCs are still trapped in a vicious cycle of underdevelopment. The challenges of building productive capacities, boosting investment and trade, reducing poverty, and strengthening institutions remain as daunting as they were in the 1980s. He said there is only one way this can change -

the debt burdens and fiscal challenges many LDCs are facing, as well as harnessing alternative financial resources, such as private capital.

congratulated the Under-Secretary General for her appointment and assured her of support from Yemen. He welcomed the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action, a significant accomplishment and a great step towards progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind, despite the difficult context caused by the pandemic. The Foreign Minister emphasized that the common thread between the LDCs that are still struggling to make progress on the SDGs – conflicts and environmental disasters. He said that the international community should seek innovative solutions for countries facing conflict, to bolster their resilience to man-made or natural disasters. He reminded the audience that poverty rates in Yemen have increased significantly since 2014, and most people need one form or another of humanitarian aid or protection. Their means of resistance has been worn down and people are trying to leave the country. The Foreign Minister spoke of climate change and that it is regrettable that the LDCs are paying the highest price, not only because of their modest resources, but also because they are the least responsible. He insisted on following the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

agreed with previous speakers who said the current tense time must encourage us to act collectively and address crises as they arise. He highlighted that the pandemic and other crises highlight the multi-dimensional vulnerability of LDCs to external shocks. Mr. Lacoste welcomed the Doha programme of Action as the common roadmap to addressing the current crises and challenges. He expressed France's support for the LDC graduation process and the work of the Office and the Committee on Development Policy to support it. He emphasized the need for solidarity and effectiveness of assistance to LDC, particularly as concessional resources are less available. Mr. Lacoste explained that France's development policy focusing and combating global inequalities is directed towards 19 priority countries, most of which are LDCs, and France continues to allocate 0.2% of their GDP to LDCs. He reiterated France's unwavering support to working with all stakeholders on the ground, in line with SDG 17. Collective work with and for the LDCs will determine our ability to attain the 2030 agenda.

emphasized that LDCs bear the brunt of the consequences of climate change, the food crisis, resource scarcity, and inequality, to name a few, despite the fact that they have done little to cause these interconnected crises. She said that for Belgium, it is clear that LDCs will be

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concluded by saying Cambodia is looking forward to working with all stakeholders to contribute to the LDCs collective ambition.

emphasized that Sweden stands in solidarity with the LDCs. As has already been stated, LDCs are particularly strongly affected by the state of the world today. The effects of the climate and planetary crisis is already playing out to see an already growing food crisis as dramatic dramatically worsened as a result of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He reminded the room that the 2030 agenda is the blueprint towards the future, and we need to get back on track. He said that as donors, we need to do our part - Fulfill the funding compact in place for more than 15 years. Sweden provides 1% of GNI to ODA, and 1/3 of that is devoted to support LDCs. Some 35% of these contributions go via the UN and the DPR would like to echo the Netherlands to say that core and flexible funding is the best way to help the UN. In country, bilaterally, Sweden's support is delivered by SIDA. He explained that Sweden engages in many areas, but they have seen particular success in strengthening gender equality and women's rights and empowerment, something that has been important in their own development journey. Sweden looks forward to continuing its engagement with LDCs and partners in this process.

emphasized that the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action must not be delayed, if we are to achieve the SDGs and build back better from COVID-19. Mr. Nakagawa said that Japan would like to stress the importance of Human Security, given the increasing interdependence of people. He reminded the audience that Japan's Prime Minister said earlier the same week that people deserve to enjoy a high quality of life, free from anxiety and fear. The concept of human security hasn't changed but we face new challenges. Mr Nakagawa said that Japan is going to actively contribute to the DPoA and reiterated Japan's commitment to LDC5 and continued support for LDCs.

as Chair of the LDC Group, led the adoption of the LDC Ministerial Declaration. She thanked all members of the group for extending the tenure of the current LDC Group Bureau until the conclusion of LDC5. She also congratulated Nepal for their election as the next chair of the group and Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Zambia, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu for their elections as the vice chairs of the coordination Bureau of the LDCs. She closed by saying Malawi and the LDC Group are truly inspired by the strong commitment of support, especially by our development partners.