

Summary Report
LDC Ministerial Meeting
17 September 2020, 9am-1pm

Panel

The Director of the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States welcomed the participants to the Annual Ministerial Meeting of LDCs 2020. She shared that this Ministerial Meeting is taking place in an extraordinary situation. Despite our geographical remoteness by thousands of miles, technology has afforded us to meet virtually in a single platform. She then invited His Excellency Mr. Eisenhower Mkaka M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and the Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of LDCs

the SDGs and the Istanbul Programme of Action. She called for extra effort and extra support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

He recalled the first preparatory working visit of the delegation of the Office of the High Representative for the LDCs to the State of Qatar in November 2019, during which fruitful and constructive discussions were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders in the state. He looked forward to the next inter-departmental working visit which will depend on the current developments. The Minister shared that the COVID-19 exacerbates the existing exceptional challenges and threatens to undermine Development gains achieved by LDCs. The Minister recalled the declaration by His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, during the Summit for Climate Action that was held last September, of the State of Qatar's contribution of 100 million US dollars to support the LDCs and SIDS deal with climate change.

The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS stated that a global recession is a reality and it can only exacerbate the dire situation in LDCs. Millions of people are unemployed in LDCs. These countries were struggling before the pandemic. They cannot meet basic public health requirements. Exports, remittances and tourism sector have fallen. Without robust and far-reaching global and regional responses, the people of the LDCs will be left further behind. LDCs urgently need special and fast action to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Considerable progress has been achieved towards graduation with 12 LDCs at various stages in this process. There is no room for complacency. For many other goals and targets, progress had either

economic activity and growth, which urged Timor-Leste's government to approve an 'Economic Recovery Plan' to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. The country continues to focus on human capital development, economic diversification, empowering people through access to quality education. Timor-Leste reminded that it relies on oil revenue and that falling oil prices in the global market have massively affected incomes and continued to construct the transformation of other development sectors for diversification of the economy in sustainable ways. As Leste called for CDP to carefully assess the impact of Covid-19 toward the graduation process.

EU stated that the Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the PoA.

expressed concern over

change and natural disasters further accentuate its development challenges. It reiterated the call for a global stimulus package for the LDCs to be funded and implemented with immediate effect.

Italy outlined that the global crisis will help to build support for the effective realization of the IPoA and set the pace for the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs to be held in 2022. Italy reaffirmed its willingness to strengthen strategic partnership with the LDCs in order to address all challenges at political, financial and technical levels. Italy will continue to activate all the strategic partnerships, such as those with WFP, the Roman based Agencies, the new initiatives in health and nutrition, namely the ACT accelerator and the Food Coalition to strengthen the basis of its cooperation to the benefit of every citizen in the world.

Liberia called for the enhanced global support to LDCs across the three dimensions of SDGs with conscious efforts to build back resilient health systems and stronger economies. It entertained the hope that the 5th United Nations Conference on LDCs will present yet another opportunity for robust and multilateral actions to garner support for LDCs.

Canada highlighted the importance of

Senegal highlighted that impact of COVID-19 on its socioeconomic development and called for solidarity to support the resilience of LDCs and their COVID-19 economic recovery plans. Senegal suggested

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with the international community by 5th UN conference on LDCs to build consensus, support LDCs in achieving common development to ensure that no one is left behind.