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Groups of countries in special situations: Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

**Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee,
Mr. Paul Empole (Democratic Republic of the Congo), on the basis of informal
consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.5**

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,² adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,³

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005,⁴

Recalling its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 at a high level,

Recalling also its resolution 64/213 of 21 December 2009 on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which it decided to convene the Conference in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27 of 23 July 2010 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

² Ibid., chap. II.

³ See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.



Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries held in New York on 27 September 2010,

Recalling the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁵ as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 59/209 of 20 December 2004, in which it stressed and reiterated the importance, for countries graduating from least developed country status, of a smooth transition to avoid disruption in development progress,

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁶ in which the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the significant constraints and structural impediments faced by the least developed countries in their development efforts and expressed grave concern that they are lagging behind in meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that context, inter alia, looked forward to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which would further invigorate the international partnership to address the special needs of these countries,

Emphasizing that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;⁷

2. *Decides* to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, at the highest possible level, in line with the mandate specified by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227, in view of the critical importance of the Conference;

3. *Also decides* to hold the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee in New York, from 4 to 8 April 2011, for five working days;

4. *Welcomes* the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and notes the outcome of the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting, held in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January 2010, and the outcome of the Africa regional preparatory meeting held in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 March 2010;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ministerial meeting on enhancing the mobilization of financial resources for the development of the least developed countries, which was held in Lisbon on 2 and 3 October 2010;

6. *Looks forward* to the ministerial meeting on harnessing the positive contribution of South-South cooperation for the development of the least developed countries to be hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in early 2011;

⁵ A/61/117, annex I.

⁶ See resolution 65/1.

⁷ A/65/80-E/2010/77.

7. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

8. *Also welcomes* the appointment, by the Secretary-General, of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors at the Fourth United Nations Conference of the Least Developed Countries and its preparatory process, and in this regard stresses the need for their active participation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, within existing resources, a day of informal interactive hearings with civil society actors before the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, in consultation with Member States, in particular the least developed countries, the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the civil society steering committee and the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate;

12. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Conference to jointly preside over the informal interactive hearings and requests the President of the General Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as a General Assembly document prior to the Conference;

13. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to consult with the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the civil society steering committee, the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and Member States, in particular the least developed countries, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that may participate in the informal interactive hearings with civil society, the meetings of the civil society forum of the Conference as well as the Conference itself;

14. *Invites* all development partners and other relevant stakeholders, including the Member States, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, parliaments, civil society, and non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and the private sector, to continue to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process, including through organization of thematic pre-conference and parallel events, in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, in line with its previous resolutions in this regard;

15. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the effective participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself;

16. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries and, while expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions, urges Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner in order to support the substantive preparations for the Conference as well as to support the participation of representatives of each least developed country in the preparatory process, and to defray the cost of participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to intensify efforts to mobilize sufficient extrabudgetary funding from all possible sources for the preparatory process and the Conference itself, and to provide information on the status of the Trust Fund;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance advocacy and public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a ten-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, identifying, inter alia, lessons learned and best practices as well as structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements and resource gaps towards the achievement of the set objectives of the Programme of Action;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the national transition strategies prepared by Governments of graduating countries and the support measures provided by development and trading partners for the States that have graduated or are graduating from least developed country status, in line with General Assembly resolution 59/209, including information on the possible need and likely ways to reinforce the smooth transition;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session an item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".