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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Sustainable development

Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Globalization and interdependence

Groups of countries in special situations

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Letter dated 28 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries, I have the honour to transmit herewith the ministerial declaration adopted at the annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held in New York on 22 September 2022 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 15 to 24.

(Signed) Agnes Mary **Chimbiri-Molande**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations
Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries



Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries

New York, 22 September 2022

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the least developed countries, having met in New York on 22 September 2022 on the theme “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” aimed at providing strategic guidance on how LDCs can overcome the impacts of the ongoing crises and build resilience against future shocks through accelerated implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031.

Welcoming the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted during the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 17 March 2022, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action.

Recognizing that the least developed countries have been severely and disproportionately hit by the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic owing to the fragility of their health systems, limited access to vaccines and the slow pace of vaccinations, limited coverage of their social protection systems, limited financial and other resources, low share of global trade and export earning, and vulnerability to external shocks, and adverse impacts of the prevailing constraints in global distribution and supply chain.

Recognizing further that the multiple and widespread impacts of conflicts and climate change, have brought about a deterioration in the situation of food security, energy security, global trade and market stability, which is putting the very viability of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action at great risk.

Welcoming the reports of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries¹ and Food insecurity in the Least Developed Countries: options for a system of stockholding and complementary means at global, regional and sub-regional levels.²

Adopt the following declaration:

1. We express our deep concern that the world is facing multiple and interlinked global crises and conflicts to the magnitude that our generation has not seen before. The devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is in its third year now; conflicts and protracted crises in different parts of the world that exacerbates food, energy, humanitarian, and refugee crises, – all are happening against the backdrop of a full-fledged climate emergency. Years of our development gains are wiped out and the projections continue to remain worrisome. The aspirations set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are in great jeopardy. GDP growth over the medium-term in many LDCs is projected to fall below the pre-pandemic level. Investment to spur recovery is highly constrained by limited

¹ [A/77/73-E/2022/53](#).

² [A/77/291](#).

fiscal space and growing debt vulnerabilities. Rising inflationary pressures, driven by spikes in food, energy and commodity prices, as well as the pandemic and conflict-related disruptions in supply, international trade, and financial markets, exacerbate output losses and inequality. Urgent global actions are needed to cope with and overcome these challenges and drive our countries back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

2. We reaffirm that the Doha Programme of Action is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners grounded in the overarching goals of achieving rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, strengthening labour markets by promoting the transition from informal to formal employment, enabling graduation from the least developed country category, facilitating access to sustainable and innovative financing, addressing inequalities, within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation, mainstreaming tech-driven entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

3. We underline the urgent need for vigorously pursuing timely and effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in a coordinated and coherent manner engaging all key stakeholders including Member States, UNDS, MDBs, IFIs, and other international organizations, parliamentarians, private sector, civil society organizations, women and youth.

4. We commit to developing an ambitious national implementation strategy for the Doha Programme of Action and integrating the provisions of the Programme of Action into our national policies, development strategies and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and conducting regular country-led and country-driven reviews, with the full involvement of all key stakeholders.

5. We call upon development partners, United Nations development system, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, multilateral institutions and all other relevant actors to implement the Doha Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective development policy frameworks, strategic frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, and ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider ambitious measures to overcome challenges, shortfalls or shortcomings. Also request them to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

6. We also call upon the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in close cooperation with relevant entities. We urge that effective linkages should be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences, processes and frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In this regard we take note of the EU Council conclusion on the EU's renewed partnerships with least developed countries³ and invite other

³ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9336-2022-INIT/en/pdf>.

development partners to tailor ambitious roadmaps to enhance partnership with the Least Developed Countries.

7. We call upon the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions, to ensure mainstreaming of the Doha Programme of Action into country-level development framework and national development strategies and strengthening the UN Country Team's support to its implementation, follow-up and monitoring.

8. We look forward to the development of a comprehensive roadmap by the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for the accelerated implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, with contributions from the UNDS, identifying specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, with a view to ensuring that the commitments in favour of least developed countries lead to concrete deliverables that would facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action and help least developed countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

9. We welcome the work of the Inter-agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, invite the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) to support the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and also invite the Secretary-General, in his capacity as CEB Chair, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board. We invite all relevant United Nations entities to collaborate under the Inter-agency Consultative Group to develop operational guidelines for their support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. We request the OHRLLS to further strengthen its role in coordination and mobilization of the UN system to ensure timely and effective implementation of the DPoA including through effective utilization of the existing UN system wide coordination mechanisms, such as the CEB and the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to include Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as a member of the CEB and the UNSDG.

10. We request the Secretary-General to strengthen the capabilities and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office to support the least developed countries, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries. In this regard we look forward to the report of the Secretary-General, prepared in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and to submit it with recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-seventh session.

11. We are concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out progress on poverty eradication and pushed 93 million more people into extreme poverty in 2020. It has disrupted essential health services, resulting in a drop in immunization coverage for the first time in a decade and a rise in deaths from tuberculosis and malaria, among many other impacts. Prolonged school closures put 24 million learners – from

pre-primary to university levels – at risk of not returning to school. The immediacy of the COVID-19 crisis is now overshadowed by the existential threat of climate change as well as food and energy crises. Concurrently, the world is witnessing the largest number of violent conflicts since 1946, with one quarter of the global population now living in conflict-affected countries. All the while, developing and least developed countries are battling record inflation, rising interest rates and looming debt burdens. With competing priorities and limited fiscal space, many are struggling unsuccessfully to recover from the pandemic. These factors, collectively, pose a major global threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The severity and magnitude of the challenges before us demand sweeping changes in our actions on a scale not yet seen in human history. We therefore call for a comprehensive transformation of the global partnership architecture, with supports in all fronts need to be scaled up both in quantity and quality and to be especially tailored to the Least Developed Countries, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind.

12. We call for an urgent and stronger global response to improve COVID-19 vaccine access and its distribution, especially in least developed countries. All countries need to act to overcome supply barriers by facilitating timely cross border flows of vaccine and treatments and sharing technologies to boost their production and supply. We note with deep concern that as of July 2022 this goal was not achieved with only 37 per cent of the population vaccinated.⁴ We also recall its target to promote and encourage technology transfer to increase production capacities of the entire supply chain of vaccines and any other health products in the regions of least developed countries. We invite the development partners and the entire UN system to take concrete actions for implementation of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19): "Burgeoning challenges and a global stimulus package for LDCs" and commit to supporting its implementation, as appropriate.

13. We call for intensified international cooperation, including by fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) and by participating in and supporting ongoing discussions to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a view to adoption under Article 19, or under other provisions of the WHO Constitution as may be deemed appropriate by the INB (Intergovernmental negotiating body) and through discussions on strengthening implementation of and compliance with the IHR (2005) (International Health resolution).

14. We note with deep concern that in the least developed countries, access to energy is moving at a slower pace and falling behind actual needs to achieve structural transformation. In 2020, 478 million people in the Least Developed Countries still had no access to electricity and over 860 million people cooked with fuels that are detrimental to their health and to the environment. The Least Developed Countries continue to lag the furthest behind in meeting SDG7 by 2030. The pace of progress is expected to further slow down as a result of conflicts and protracted crises in different parts of the world, of the uncertainty in global oil and gas markets and soaring energy prices.

15. We stress that international public financing for renewable energy should be drastically scaled-up in the Least Developed Countries to harness cost-competitive renewables that have an important role to play in addressing the energy crisis and climate emergencies. We also invite the swift implementation of the UN Energy pledge and call upon its members to accelerate actions on all fronts to reach the

⁴ www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/LDC-vaccine-31-Jul-22.pdf.

milestone target by 2025 to raise energy access investment to US\$40 billion of which 50 per cent is directed to the Least Developed Countries.

16. We express deep concern over the current state of global food insecurity, exacerbating humanitarian needs and increasing the risk of famine around the world, especially in developing countries.

17. We welcome the UN General Assembly resolution [76/264](#) of 27 May 2022, entitled “State of Global Food Insecurity”, and reiterate its call upon the international community to urgently support countries affected by the food security crisis through coordinated actions, including the provision of emergency food supplies, food programmes, financial support, and increased and diversified agricultural production, and to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. We also call upon the international financial institutions to find urgent, affordable and timely solutions to support developing countries, in particular those highly indebted, in responding to the food security crisis, through, but not limited to, facilitating, as appropriate, access to debt relief, concessional finance and grants.

18. We are seriously concerned that more people in the Least Developed Countries are now forecast to be pushed into food insecurity and extreme poverty by the end of 2022, where already 251 million people are severely food insecure. The most recent operational programming update from the World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that in 2022, 345 million people will be acutely food insecure or at a high risk of food insecurity in 82 countries with a WFP operational presence, implying an increase of 47 million acutely hungry people exacerbated by the ripple effects of conflicts and other protracted crises in different parts of the world.

19. We call upon the international community to establish a Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF) to facilitate access to credit on preferential terms by least developed countries in the event of soaring food import bills and to address supply-side shocks by providing finance to countries burdened with the necessity to import costs of key agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides at elevated costs. We also request Regional Development Banks to establish a credit guarantee facility to support least developed countries to access necessary credit guarantees to enter into futures and options contracts for importing basic foodstuffs and support long-term agricultural production in least developed countries.

20. We express our deep concern that the climate crisis is worsening. Our people and communities are suffering disproportionately from the devastating impacts of climate change, while they are least responsible for this crisis. We are deeply worried that under current voluntary national commitments to climate action, greenhouse gas emissions will rise by nearly 14 per cent by 2030. Limiting warming to 1.5°C can be done, but the political will must be there. countries must bring forward new and increased emissions reduction targets for this critical decade this year.

21. We once again plea for high emitters to commit to greater emissions reduction targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions, to reflect their fair share of the global effort in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. We call upon the developed country parties to immediately deliver in full on the \$100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges, ensuring a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation finance with 50 per cent of the adaptation finance going to the Least Developed Countries and other most vulnerable countries. At COP26, developed countries committed to doubling adaptation finance, but it’s still not clear how and when those funds will reach the communities that need them most.

22. We welcome the decisions of the Board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time on a grant-equivalent basis and to continue to provide at least 50 per cent and (in line with the Green Climate Fund's initial resource mobilization allocation floor) to aim to allocate 69 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including least developed countries.

23. We look forward to COP27 to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from 6–18 November 2022 and call upon Parties to make progress and reach agreement, among others, on a new goal for climate finance to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries address climate change; a work program for scaling up countries' emissions reductions targets to match the level needed to limit warming to 1.5°C; finance to address loss and damage caused by climate change; and a 'global stocktake' to assess progress on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We also call for scaled up WBG and other MDB financing, catalysing substantial private finance and innovative financing instruments to bridge the financing gap and achieve inclusive and sustainable development in the Least Developed Countries. We call on the international community, in particular parties, to support the proposals contained in the Dakar Least Developed Countries Group Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change during the negotiations of the COP27 outcomes.

24. We welcome the commitment of development partners to ensuring the fulfilment of all ODA commitments to least developed countries, ensuring the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national priorities and increasing the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national systems and procedures. We welcome the decision by the European Union by which it reaffirms its collective commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and undertakes to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income 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 gross national income for ODA to the Least Developed Countries. We are encouraged by those that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries. We call upon development partners to ensure that the ongoing crises including war in Ukraine, austerity and inward-looking measures, and other underlying concerns related to global economic slowdown and inflation should in no way affect the development assistance going to the Least Developed Countries.

25. We call for the strengthening of South-South cooperation in all relevant areas in a predictable manner in line with the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

26. We call upon official creditors to make long-term sustainable financing available to least developed countries through grants and concessional funding and to offer more fixed-interest lending at low interest rates, emphasizing that this is part of a mix of financing approaches that also include grants.

27. We are seriously concerned that the Least Developed Countries received only a meagre share of the total SDR allocation. We welcome the creation of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) through which SDRs can be voluntarily channeled to countries in need. We call on the IMF to ensure the RST is operational by the 2022 Annual Meetings and to work in close collaboration with the WBG in implementing the RST. We welcome the global ambition to voluntarily channel \$100 billion of unused SDRs to developing and least developing countries that need liquidity support and urge further pledges to meet that goal. We invite the IMF to ensure that support from the RST covers the broad range of areas for the Least Developed Countries that are needed to enhance resilience and prospective balance

of payments sustainability, delivering the scale of medium-term financing required to address them.

28. We welcome the convening of the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, and the adoption of its ministerial declaration. We reiterate our call on WTO members to make substantial progress in the implementation of ministerial decisions on duty-free and quota-free market access, preferential rules of origin, the LDC services waiver, and substantially increase the allocation of aid for trade to enhance their exports and economic diversification. We also call for further analytical work and efforts to close existing data gaps to better understand the impact of rules of origin requirements and factors determining application and under-utilization of trade preferences.

29. We recall the commitment of the international community to contribute to strengthening e-commerce in least developed countries by building digital ecosystems and providing capacity-building support. We urge development partners to provide additional and substantial support to least developed countries in building and gaining access to required infrastructure in energy, electricity and digital infrastructure; promoting personal data protection; upgrading workforce skills; ensuring affordable and reliable access to broadband and mobile networks and Wi-Fi connectivity, including in the last mile; facilitating mobile banking with low- or no-fee digital payments; and strengthening productive capacity and structural transformation, along with transparent and fair regulations, for promoting e-commerce and the integration of least developed countries into the global economy.

30. We warmly welcome the signing of the partnership agreement between the WTO and OHRLLS aimed at strengthening cooperation to boost the participation of least-developed countries in the global trading system through (i) evidence-based analytical assessments to inform policy makers on the implementation of the trade-related aspects of the Doha Programme of Action; (ii) strengthening trade-related capacity of the Least Developed Countries through joint capacity-building activities; and (iii) cooperating on each other's outreach events on the side-lines of the major global conferences. We express our support to this initiative and look forward to its implementation.

31. We call upon the WTO Members to support the proposals put forward by the Group of Least Developed Countries at WTO, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category in the lead up to the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

32. We welcome the commitment in the DPoA to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries. We reiterate the decision to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support for investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities, improving enabling environments, and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of establishing an international investment support centre for least developed countries in the form of a one-stop shop to mobilize support for implementation of the investment promotion regime for least developed countries and graduated countries, and to submit the study and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its seventy-eighth session.

33. We note with concern that the stock of debt and debt service payment obligations of least developed countries increased significantly. Over the past decades, the composition of debt of least developed countries changed considerably towards

less concessional finance. We welcome the measures adopted in 2020 by the Group of 20 and the Paris Club, namely, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, to facilitate higher COVID-19 pandemic-related spending and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative to facilitate timely and orderly debt treatment on a case-by-case basis with broad participation of all creditors, on comparable terms, including the private sector, in line with the comparability of treatment principle. However, we note with concern that debt service by the Least Developed Countries as a percent of exports further increased to 14.5%. We call on the Group of 20 to reactivate the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (which ended end of 2021) with extended maturities, as well as material advances under the Common Framework for Debt Treatment of the G20 and expand the multilateral debt service suspension initiative for two years and reschedule maturity for two to five years.

34. We call upon the development partners, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, commercial and private creditors and other stakeholders to undertake urgent measures to address the debt problems of the Least Developed Countries through coordinated policies and measures aimed at fostering adequate debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, and ensuring that debt relief does not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for least developed countries. We reiterate our invitation to the official creditors, including international financial institutions, to consider exploring the inclusion of State-contingent clauses in public debt contracts to enable standstills in times of crisis and to provide an example for private markets, including through granting a suspension of debt service.

35. We stress the importance of providing enhanced support to the Least Developed Countries to meet the graduation criteria and to provide specific support measures to recently graduated countries for making graduation sustainable and irreversible.

36. 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 United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions reduced abruptly. 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 note that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at WTO, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category, and seek to further examine these issues while calling for favourable consideration of proposals by least developed countries. We call upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges. We further call for the continued provision of aid for trade to newly graduated countries to enable them to fully participate in the multilateral trading system, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and protracted crises in different parts of the world and climate crisis which have negatively impacted the social and economic progress made by the Least Developed Countries.

37. We welcome the work of the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island

Developing States, to provide strengthened and coordinated United Nations system-wide support to the countries graduating from the least developed country category and invite all relevant United Nations entities to collaborate under the inter-agency task force and develop operational guidelines for their support to least developed countries, including assistance to graduating countries.

38. We also welcome the establishment of a Sustainable Graduation Support Facility – iGRAD by OHRLLS, as Chair of the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the secretariat for the Committee for Development Policy, as a concrete, country-led solution of dedicated capacity development support. We call upon Member States to support this initiative. We welcome the establishment of an enhanced monitoring mechanism by CDP, and call upon graduating and graduated countries to integrate the enhanced monitoring mechanism into their existing policy monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

39. We welcome UNCTAD's policy brief no 99 titled "Strategy for graduation with momentum: Bridging pre-graduation and post-graduation development processes in the least developed countries", which came out in April 2022 and call upon the development partners, OHRLLS, CDP and other relevant UN agencies to examine the proposals further for identifying and delivering on a comprehensive set of policy measures to address the challenges to be faced by the Least Developed Countries after graduation.

40. We welcome the commitment of the international community to supporting the least developed countries in gaining access to and effectively utilizing 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 the local context. We further welcome the commitment 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.

41. We request the Secretary-General to undertake feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and post-graduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in least developed countries and recently graduated countries with a view to, inter alia, providing policy support to promote distance education and open learning for graduate and post-graduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ensuring a 50/50 gender balance at all levels while guaranteeing special access for the poorest and people in vulnerable situations; creating a virtual network of educational institutions within and beyond least developed countries; assisting in course design and curriculum development; and leading to scale and sustainability of the education system, taking into account all pre-existing initiatives developed by the relevant partners in a comprehensive manner. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit a report, outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources, to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration.

42. We reiterate our call to all relevant stakeholders to substantially expand globally the number of places and scholarships for students and trainees from least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, education technology, business management and economics, and encourage the full uptake of scholarships available to students of least developed countries.

43. We welcome the Transforming Education Summit convened by the United Nations Secretary-General in New York on 16, 17 and 19 September 2022, which provided a unique opportunity to elevate education to the top of the global political agenda and to mobilize action, ambition, solidarity and solutions to recover pandemic-related learning losses and sow the seeds to transform education in a rapidly changing world.

44. We acknowledge the critical importance that science, technology and innovation, including inclusive and enabling innovation ecosystems, environmentally sound technologies and ICT can have in the pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. 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 least developed countries to create a sound and viable technological base and note the recent discussions on this article, in particular on the meaning of “incentives to enterprises and institutions”. We welcome the decision of the DPoA that each least developed country will establish and strengthen a national science institute to promote local innovations, research, design and development, including in emerging technologies.

45. We recognize the critical importance of the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in improving LDCs’ scientific research and innovation base, promote networking among researchers and research institutions, help Least Developed Countries access and utilize critical technologies, and draw together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector, and to implement projects contributing to the use of STI for economic development in the Least Developed Countries. We take note with appreciation of the contributions made to the Bank by the host country Türkiye and other countries and call upon all members, especially donor countries and other development partners to make substantive contributions to the Bank for its effective functioning. We also call upon member States to raise awareness on the activities of the Technology Bank in their countries and to collaborate with the Technology Bank to ensure that technology is used as a critical tool for development. We therefore support the UN Technology Bank as focal point for Least Developed Countries and recently graduated Least Developed Countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation.

46. We call upon development partners to undertake specific initiatives to build technological capacity and digital infrastructure and connectivity in the Least Developed Countries. In this regard we welcome the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition initiative launched by ITU to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally, with a focus to hardest- to-connect communities in the Least Developed Countries Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.⁵

47. We recommit to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving the full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and to supporting countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances. In this regard, we recognize the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit and destination, and in the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome the successful holding of the first International Migration Review Forum in May 2022 and the adoption of its progress

⁵ www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/.

declaration by consensus. We call on the Member States, UN agencies, the UN Network on Migration and all other stakeholders to ensure the full and effective implementation of the recommended actions contained in the Progress Declaration.

48. We recall the DPoA targets to reduce, by 2030, to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrants' remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent and invite the development partners, financial institutions as well as entities and stakeholders involved with the remittance transactions to assist the Least Developed Countries to realize these targets. We welcome the DPoA decision to support incentive programmes to ensure that remittances are used for long-term investment in productive capacity-building in the Least Developed Countries.

49. We recognize that South-South and triangular cooperation has emerged and expanded significantly as a vital force in the world economic landscape. We stress that the potentials of South-South and triangular cooperation for trade, investment, economic and technological cooperation should be fully harnessed as a real complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. We commend increasing volume of development assistance and financial flows, technology transfer, and duty-free, quota-free market access being provided by countries of the South to the least developed countries. We call upon the countries of the global South to further strengthen their support to least developed countries in all these areas in a predictable manner to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

50. We commit to strengthening good governance, democratic processes and the rule of law by ensuring transparent and accountable governance, equal access to justice and independent judicial institutions, based on the respect for human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of those experiencing poverty, marginalization or vulnerability, especially women and girls. We also commit to increased democratic participation, enhancing institutional capacity at all levels and strengthening civil society. We will also strengthen efforts to fight corruption, bribery and money laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by strengthening anti-corruption and other laws and regulations and their effective enforcement.

51. We note with concern that the Least Developed Countries are seriously under-represented and have not been given their due share in terms of voice and participation in the decision-making process of the BWIs. The voting system and accountability structure of the BWIs must undergo fundamental reform with a view to ensuring effective voice and participation of the least developed countries in their decision-making processes. We reiterate our call for the recognition of the least developed countries as a specific category by the Bretton Woods Institutions based on the United Nations Economic Vulnerability Index prepared by the CDP for the sake of coordination and coherence of international development cooperation.

52. We call upon the G20 countries to accord special priority to the challenges faced by the least developed countries especially in its outcome of the 17th Summit to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 15–16 November 2022. We also call upon the G-7 countries to give due consideration to the LDC agenda and take appropriate measures to ensure that concerns of the Least Developed Countries are duly taken into account in their decisions. We also call upon them to ensure voice and participation of the Least Developed Countries in all their activities.

53. We welcome the participation at this meeting of many development partners. We most sincerely acknowledge the supportive role being played by the Group of Friends of least developed countries and invite the Group to further strengthen its support for the effective realization of the Doha Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcomes of all other international and regional conferences and processes as they relate to the least

developed countries. We especially invite the Friends of the Least Developed Countries to actively engage and continue to provide their support and participate at the HoS/HoG level to the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and present concrete initiatives in support of the implementation of the DPoA.

54. We recall the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in March 2022 and underline that the second part of the LDC5 Conference will be an exceptional one as the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries is already adopted in March 2022. Therefore, the primary focus of the conference should be to rally the international community on how to translate the global commitments into specific programmes and actions. We call upon the development partners, including member States, UN development system and other international organizations, private sector and civil society organizations to come up with specific and dedicated support measures for full and timely implementation of the DPoA including operationalization of the key deliverables such as an online university, investment promotion regime, food stock holding, crisis mitigation and resilience building mechanism and graduation support package.

55. We note, with appreciation, the substantive and organizational preparations for the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023, at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandates specified in General Assembly resolutions. We urge all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the preparatory process and looks forward to its successful and ambitious outcome.

56. We deeply appreciate the Government of the State of Qatar for agreeing to host the LDC5 Conference and its excellent support to undertake substantive preparations for Conference. We also acknowledge with appreciations Qatar's continued commitment to support the implementation of the DPoA. We will participate in this Summit at the Heads of State and Government level and invite our development partners to participate also at the Heads of State and Government level and the agencies at the principals' level. We further invite other stakeholders to participate at the highest possible level.

57. We resolve to uphold our common aspiration of ensuring sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all least developed countries leading to our ultimate goal of graduation from the least developed country category. We will continue to maintain our solidarity and unity and pursue common position on issues related to our interest in various multilateral fora.

58. We recall annex II of the Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries entitled "Decision on a coordination mechanism for the least developed countries, adopted at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 15 November 2001" (see [A/C.2/56/5](#)). We also recall the Ministerial Declaration of LDCs adopted on 26 September 2018, contained in document [A/73/455](#), which endorsed the nomination by consensus of the Republic of Malawi to serve as the Chair and Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Senegal and Yemen as the Vice-chairs of the Global Coordination Bureau for three years (2018–2021); as well as the nomination by consensus of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu, on an exceptional basis, as the Vice-chair of the Global Coordination Bureau for one year each for the next three years. We also recall the Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries adopted on 17 September 2021, contained in document [A/76/394](#), which decided to extend the term of the current bureau for one more year ending September 2022. We further decide to extend the term of the current bureau, namely the Republic of Malawi to serve as the Chair and Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Senegal, Solomon Islands

and Yemen as the Vice-chairs until the conclusion of the second part of the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs to be held in Doha, Qatar from 5–9 March 2023. We assure our full support and cooperation to the Bureau in discharging its responsibilities.

59. We warmly welcome the nomination by consensus of Nepal to serve as the Chair and Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Zambia as the Vice-chairs of the Global Coordination Bureau for three years, and the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, each serving for one and a half years, on an exceptional basis, until the election of the next bureau in September 2026, which will assume its responsibilities immediately after the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs to be held in Doha, Qatar from 5–9 March 2023. We congratulate and assure our full support and cooperation to the Bureau in discharging its responsibilities.

60. We invite Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the LDC Trust Fund for undertaking implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action.
