



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2022

2022 session

Agenda item 11 (b)

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2022

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting ([E/2022/L.23](#))]

2022/19. Programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2022–2031

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling 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,

Recalling also the progress achieved in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹ as well as where it fell short of achieving desired progress in the set goals and targets,

Affirming 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

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* ([A/CONF.219/7](#)), chap. II.



transformation and achieving the 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,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,³ the Paris Agreement,⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁵ and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),⁶

Recalling also General Assembly decision 76/551 of 20 January 2022 on the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its resolutions [76/251](#) of 28 February 2022 on further modalities of the Fifth Conference and [76/258](#) on the Doha Programme of Action,

Recalling further its resolution [2021/19](#) of 21 July 2021 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling also 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, as well as the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, at which the Bridgetown Covenant was adopted,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight COVID-19, [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 and [76/175](#) of 16 December 2021 on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recognizing that the least developed countries have been severely 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, and vulnerability to external shocks,

Recognizing also that the multiple and widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 at great risk,

Recognizing further the contributions of migrants in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in both their countries of origin and destination, noting with concern the significant socioeconomic consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on migrant workers and refugees from least developed countries, including those in the low-wage informal economy, and noting with concern that the prospects of upward growth rate of remittances are likely to moderate in 2022 in many

² General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

³ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁶ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

countries, highlighting that promoting faster, safer and cheaper remittances and reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances will have positive impacts on the millions of people who depend heavily on them,

Welcoming the 2021 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,⁷

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;⁸

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to take actions to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,⁹ including by developing an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Programme of Action and integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders;

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country-level review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the existing consultative mechanisms, to cover the review of the Doha Programme of Action and extend them to all least developed countries;

4. *Calls upon* development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Doha Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to 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 appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in close coordination and cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

6. *Invites* 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 continue to collaborate with and provide support to national follow-up and monitoring;

7. *Decides* to devote adequate time in its programme of work to discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing the least developed countries in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments set out in the Doha Programme of Action;

8. *Also decides* to continue to include periodically during its annual session an agenda item on the review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to conduct periodic reviews of progress made and constraints confronted by least developed countries to allow for focused interaction, and requests the Development Cooperation Forum to continue to review trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, including for least developed countries and graduated countries, which will be

⁷ [A/76/394](#), annex.

⁸ [A/77/73-E/2022/53](#).

⁹ General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), annex.

supported by reviews by the Council's functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums;

9. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates, and invites those organizations to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, broadly utilizing the coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and keeping the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries active in this regard;

11. *Expresses deep concern* at the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the least developed countries, takes note of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on COVID-19¹⁰ and commits to supporting its implementation, as appropriate, and invites development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders to support the least developed countries in their recovery efforts and continued implementation of the unfulfilled agenda of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

12. *Calls for* intensified international cooperation, including by fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),¹¹ to contain, mitigate and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, including by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices and by applying the relevant guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization, and by participating in and supporting ongoing discussions to draft and negotiate a World Health Organization 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 Constitution of the World Health Organization¹² as may be deemed appropriate by the intergovernmental negotiating body and through discussions on strengthening the implementation of and compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005);

13. *Notes with concern* the estimates that by 2030 much of the world's poor will live in least developed countries, which poses a major global threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, stresses the need for global support for the least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind, and further recognizes the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, protecting and promoting human rights, reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of Governments of least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

¹⁰ [A/74/843](#), annex, enclosure I.

¹¹ World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 14, No. 221.

14. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, as well as recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating situation of food security, lack of finance and energy, and increase of poverty, that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

15. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

16. *Notes* the substantive and organizational preparations for 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 mandate specified in General Assembly resolutions [73/242](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/232 A](#) of 19 December 2019, [74/232 B](#) of 11 August 2020, [75/227](#) of 21 December 2020 and [76/216](#) of 17 December 2021, urges all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the preparatory process, and looks forward to its successful and ambitious outcome;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2023 session, under a sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries” of the item entitled “Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits”, a progress report on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

*34th plenary meeting
22 July 2022*