



Statement by Ms. Rabab Fatima

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Developing States**

ECOSOC Management Segment

**item 11, Implementation of and follow-up to major United
Nations conferences and summits, sub-item (b) Review and
coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of
Action for the Least Developed Countries**

**Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General on the
implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least
Developed Countries (A/79/75-E/2024/8)**

5 June 2024, 3-6 pm

ECOSOC Chamber

Time allocated: 5 minutes, Word count: 827

**Her Excellency Amb. Paula Narváez, Permanent Representative
of Chile to the UN and President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

**I have the honour to introduce the Report of the Secretary-
General on the implementation of the Doha Programme of
Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the DPOA.**

**At the outset, I would like to thank all Member States for their
continued support to implement the DPOA.**

**I also thank the Government of Qatar for its extraordinary
support and leadership, especially for its generous support for
the DPOA's food stockholding system and its resilience building
measures for the LDCs.**

**The Secretary General's report highlights the situation facing the
LDCs.**

- Last year, LDCs lost 10% of their GDP compared to pre-
pandemic growth trends.**

- **Almost 15 million more people have been pushed into extreme poverty in 2023 compared to 2019.**
- **Their trade deficit reached USD 124.1 billion in 2022.**
- **ODA flows fell by over 7% in 2022, totalling only about USD 45 billion.**
- **According to the World bank, of the 39 fragile and conflict-affected situations worldwide, 24 are in LDCs. In 2024, more than 231 million people in LDCs will need humanitarian assistance.**
- **Over 24% of people in LDCs remained severely food insecure in 2021.**
- **As of November 2023, 6 LDCs are in debt distress and 15 are classified to be at high risk.**

And the list goes on.

Clearly, LDCs need enhanced support, solidarity, and global action to address these challenges.

My Office has taken up a multifaceted and multi-pronged approach in response to this urgent situation.

We have engaged with all stakeholders to realize the targets, commitments, and deliverables of the DPOA.

My Office launched a Roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPOA, outlining specific actions to be taken by all partners, including the UN system.

With the generous support of Qatar, we are working on the feasibility of operationalizing the System of Food Stockholding in LDCs. A report of the Secretary-General, to be submitted at the 79th UNGA, will elaborate on modalities, terms of reference, governance, and support structures of this system,

This mechanism will be implemented in collaboration with FAO, WFP, and IFAD, among others.

This will enhance access to food supplies and preparedness for food emergencies.

The Government of Qatar has also announced its support to the DPOA deliverable on resilience building.

In collaboration with UNDRR and WMO, and other UN entities, a comprehensive study on Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in LDCs is being prepared, which will document initiatives, gaps, and propose recommendations for LDCs and development partners. A report of the Secretary-General will also be submitted to the General Assembly at its 79th session, further elaborating on this deliverable.

My Office is preparing a feasibility study on establishing the online university to promote STEM education in LDCs.

The study will be submitted to the UNGA at its 79th session.

My Office is also carrying out a feasibility study on an international investment support centre for the LDCs.

An extensive mapping and gaps analysis exercise has been completed on the proposed centre. A report of the Secretary-

General on this deliverable will be submitted to the 80th session of the UNGA.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

The DPOA aims to enable 15 additional LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031.

I congratulate Bhutan for graduating from the LDC Category in last December - the first LDC to do so since adoption of the DPOA.

We currently have 15 countries in different stages of graduation. I am pleased to inform you that the CDP, during its recent triennial review, found that 3 new African countries - Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania - met the graduation criteria for the first time. We now have equal number of Asia-Pacific and African LDCs in the graduation pipeline.

To sustain this momentum, it is important to ensure the full operationalization of the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility-iGRAD, which was launched during LDC5.

This will help ensuring country-specific and partnership-based support to the graduating LDCs and graduated countries.

Later this year, my Office plans to hold a regional meeting in Dhaka and a dedicated meeting on graduation to mobilize further support.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

As the Special Adviser of the SIDS4 Conference, I am pleased to report that my team worked alongside DESA to conclude a very successful Conference in Antigua and Barbuda.

The adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS -the ABAS- ushers in a new era of hope and aspirations for the 39 SIDS, 8 of which are also LDCs.

We will make every effort to ensure its implementation.

We have also just concluded the Second Preparatory Committee meeting of the LLDC3, which agreed by consensus, the next POA for the LLDCs. It may be noted that 16 out of the 32 LLDCs, are also LDCs.

We count on your support to make the LLDC3 Conference to be held in Gaborone, Botswana later this year a success.

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

Despite the very challenging circumstances, I believe that we have made important progress in the implementation of the DPOA.

The multiple upcoming high-level processes, in September and beyond, including the Summit of the Future and the 4th FFD Forum, offer us important opportunities to further the implementation of the DPOA.

I count on your continued support to advance this important agenda.

I thank you.