

STATEMENT

TO BE

DELIVERED

BY

H.E. MR. AMRIT BAHADUR RAI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION BUREAU OF THE LDCS

ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)

DURING THE 2023 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT: BOOSTING TAILORED UNDS RESPONSE TO DIVERSE COUNTRY CONTEXTS

Wednesday 24, MAY 2023

15:00 – 16:30

ECOSOC CHAMBERS

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Moderator
Distinguished panelists, Excellencies, and colleagues,

I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of the least developed countries.

I deeply appreciate the distinguished panelists for their informative and insightful presentations.

We are having this debate at a critical time. Recent reports and the discussions in this august house are presenting a very gloomy picture and disheartening projections. The SG's report on the progress towards SDGs has alerted that "the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are disappearing in the rear-view mirror".

It is appalling that only about 12% of the SDGs are on track; and some 30% have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline.

While the regression in the SDG achievement is universal, the situation is worrisome in LDCs.

Under current trends, 575 million people are projected to be living in extreme poverty in 2030 and around half of them will live in LDCs. Around 266 million people were malnourished in LDCs in 2021. The figure goes on and on.

At this critical time, the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs, adopted at the LDC5, provides us with a beacon of hope. This decade-long Programme of Action sets the ambitious targets, commitments, and concrete deliverables to bring a transformative change in the lives and livelihoods of 1.2 billion people in LDCs.

The overarching objectives of the new Programme of Action are to overcome the impacts of the ongoing crises, build resilience against future shocks, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and meet the criteria for sustainable and irreversible graduation.

Thus, the Doha Programme of Action can serve as an important locomotive to speed up the achievement of the SDGs in LDCs.

We therefore need to invest all our resources and means to ensure full implementation of the DPOA in a timely manner.

The collective assets and resources of the revitalized UNDS is needed more than ever for LDCs to support the implementation of the DPOA. Let me make a few suggestions in this regard:

First: The UNDS, the RC System, the IFIs and the regional resources need to be fully mobilized in support of the implementation of the DPOA. Let me mention here that the participation of the Secretary-Secretary, the Deputy Secretary-General, a large number of UN Principals and Resident Coordinators in the LDC5 and their strong commitment of support to LDCs were truly reassuring. The Secretary-General of the LDC5 Conference USG Rabab Fatima and her team and the host country Qatar deserve our special thanks for such a huge mobilization.

Second: We urgently need to ensure integration of the Doha Programme of Action into national development strategies, Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, strategic plans, annual work programmes and reporting at all levels on a priority basis.

Third: The operational activities of the UNDS offer a major source of support to LDCs. The share of total expenditure for the operational activities in LDCs reached 50.5 per cent of the total in 2022. This is encouraging and we deeply appreciate the UNDS and our donor countries for such support and focus on LDCs. However, we would like to flag that the share of expenditure going to LDCs was more than 52 per cent in 2012 and we are yet to reach that level. Furthermore, most of the recent increase can be attributed to humanitarian activities, while spending on development activities has remained unchanged.

Fourth: The Joint SDG Fund and various thematic funds are making important contributions to support the implementation of the SDGs on the ground. We call for full capitalization of the SDG Fund to the tune of \$290 million which has dropped to only \$20 million in 2022. We would also like to propose that the Joint SDG Fund should support the implementation of some of the key targets and deliverables of the DPOA.

Finally: While the OHRLLS will be responsible for the systemwide follow-up and monitoring of the DPOA, we call upon the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, IMF and other multilateral institutions, to support national follow-up and monitoring as requested in the DPOA.

I thank you all.