

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: HIGH-LEVEL
DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND UN MEMBER
STATES

TUESDAY 23, MAY 2023

11:00 – 13:00 hrs

ECOSOC CHAMBERS

Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver a few remarks on behalf of the group of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

I align my statement with the statement by Cuba on behalf of G-77 and China.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive presentation this morning. I also thank him for his evidence-based analytical reports on QCPR implementation and UNDS reform.

As we come out of the LDC5 Conference in Doha, we underscore the critical role of the UNDS to support the implementation of the Doha Program of Action.

We support the reforms of the UNDS and the RC system, as such reforms enhance the capacity of the UNDS to provide programmatic and technical support, and evidence-based-policy advice to the LDCs aligned with their national needs and priorities.

We also appreciate the support received for statistical capacities, data collection, analysis, and management. But more needs to be done, especially in LDCs.

Mr. Secretary General, what worries us now is the ‘setbacks and reversals’ in the SDGs mentioned in your report, which have resulted from multiple global crises.

The LDCs ipso facto are the hardest hit by their cumulative effects, seriously undermining the resolve of leaving no one behind, as pledged in the 2030 Agenda.

Against this backdrop, we urge the international community, particularly our development partners and IFIs, to scale up means of implementation, by providing financial resources, technical and capacity building support to the LDCs. We fully support Secretary-General’s call for an SDG Stimulus of at least 500 USD billion per year for sustainable development.

We are concerned about the recurrent funding gap of the RC system, which is estimated to be \$85 million this year. Such a big gap undermines the RC system’s capacity for program implementation at the country level, especially to LDCs. We therefore call for full mobilization of \$281 million in a timely and predictable manner for the RC system to ensure its effective functioning.

We also call upon the development partners to ensure the replenishment of \$290 million per year for the SDG Fund, so that it can continue its support to LDCs and other vulnerable countries.

While there are some progresses on core funding, more needs to be done. Sources of funding also needs to be diversified.

We are encouraged by the increase in resources going to the LDCs under operational activities. In 2021, around 50 percent of the total UNDS country expenditures occurred in LDCs. However, this share was more than 52 percent in 2012. Moreover, a major share of the expenditure is going to humanitarian activities, leaving the development activities underfunded.

Finally, we wish a successful conclusion of the OAD Segment, and hope that it will culminate in concrete recommendations for rescuing the SDGs from the risk of a major debacle.

The SDG Summit in September will be a crucial moment to raise ambition and invest in the necessary transformations to accelerate progress.

I thank you for your attention.