



**Statement by Ms. Rabab Fatima  
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least  
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and  
Small Island Developing States**

**ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment  
Panel session on “Boosting tailored United Nations responses  
to diverse country contexts”  
24 May 2023, 15:00-16:30  
ECOSOC Chamber**

**Time allocated: approx. 4 minutes**

***Guiding questions:***

- *How is the United Nations development system adjusting its support to LDCs to implement the Doha Programme of Action?*
- *How can the United Nations development system best support preparations ahead of next year's Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs and Fourth International Conference on SIDS?*

**Mr. Vice-President,**

**His Excellency Mr. Teburoro Tito,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Good afternoon.**

**I thank you for inviting me to participate at this very important session.**

**Let me first address the question on the support of the United Nations Development System to the LDCs for implementing the Doha Programme of Action.**

**The Fifth UN Conference for the LDCs, which was held in March this year in Qatar, provided a critical opportunity to renew our**

**shared commitment to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs.**

**We succeeded in doing exactly that, by delivering:**

- enhanced financial pledges from development partners**
- strengthened cooperation agreements**
- new partnerships, and**
- concrete pledges of investment from the private sector.**

**I am pleased to report that the principals of the UN development system demonstrated strong support to the LDCs at LDC5.**

**The attendance by 20 USGs, 10 ASGs and many other heads of offices and entities was testament to the importance the UN development system attaches to the countries that face the most serious challenges.**

**At a dedicated event convened by the UN Secretary-General, UN principals announced concrete commitments for the implementation of the DPOA.**

**My Office also arranged for the RCs from the LDCs to be present at the Conference. That provided an opportunity for the RCs to**

**actively engage, together with the National Focal Points of the LDCs, with other partners, and put forward important ideas and recommendations to bridge the gap between global and national level implementation of the POA.**

**Indeed, it is essential now to translate pledges into action on the ground.**

**To this end, in mid-June, I am convening the UN system at principal level to follow-up with them on the commitments they made in support of the LDCs at the Secretary-General's high-level event in Doha.**

**We all agree that action is needed at all levels.**

**The LDCs must reflect the DPOA in their national plans and programmes.**

**And for that, the support of the UN Country Teams and the RCs will be critical. They must also ensure that the DPOA is integrated into the Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.**

**The Executive Boards and Governing Bodies of UN entities should similarly take action to mainstream the DPOA into the work programmes of the UN development system. The LDC Chair will be requesting the Presidents of the Executive Boards of the Funds and Programmes, and the relevant UN principals to ensure that.**

**The Regional Economic Commissions and other regional organizations would also be an integral part of this process.**

**In essence, we are mobilizing the entire UN Development system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. To that end, my Office will soon launch a roadmap delineating specific responsibilities for all relevant entities.**

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**Let me turn to the LLDC3 and SIDS4 Conference, which will take place in 2024.**

**The UN Development System has vital roles to play in the preparatory processes of these two important conferences.**

**We begin these processes by carrying out assessments of the implementation of the Programmes of Action.**

**At the national level, this will be carried out through LLDC and SIDS reports.**

**In the lead up to the 2 conferences, there will be regional review meetings in partnership with Regional Commissions, which will identify important priorities for the new POAs for the LLDCs and SIDS.**

**And at the global level, we will conduct thematic assessments on the implementation of the programmes of Action.**

**I will be working closely with the UN development system to engage actively in this critical phase, which will serve to identify implementation gaps as well as new and emerging priorities.**

**There will be opportunities for all stakeholders to contribute to the process, including through publications and reports, dedicated thematic events, and active participation in the preparatory process.**

**[Excellencies] The active engagement of the UNDS at various levels has been well recognized in the Secretary-General's report on QCPR. The LDCs and LLDCs have indicated that the UN development system activities were closely aligned with their needs and priorities. And the report also notes improvement among SIDS in this regard.**

**I reiterate that OHRLLS will redouble its efforts to mobilize the UN development system to further improve our support and deep engagement as we prepare for the LLDCs3 and SIDS4 next year.**

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