

Draft remarks by the Chair of LDCs
ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment
SESSION 1: OAS Opening and High-level dialogue between the Secretary-General and UN
Member States In-person (ECOSOC Chamber)
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President of the ECOSOC
President of the General Assembly
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Excellencies, delegates

I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of LDCs.

At the outset, I must commend the Secretary-General for his comprehensive presentation this morning. It features the updates on the implementation of the UN system reform and its operational activities.

We are at an inflection point. Already the developing world was struggling to meet the SDGs before the pandemic. Most LDCs were already off track. We are already at a tipping point to fight the climate change. COVID-19 has caused generational impacts on us. Years of our development gains are lost. Impacts are noticeable everywhere. The war in Ukraine has brought in new dimensions in the crises. Food, energy, finance and inflationary pressures have inflicted a devastating storm on our lives and livelihoods.

At this critical juncture, LDCs need the UN system support more than ever before. Let me highlight the following six points in today's discussions:

First: We must join our hands together to get back on track in our road towards 2030 Agenda. Universal vaccination, especially reaching the 70 per cent target by mid-2022 is fundamental. UN System and the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator need to reorient its focus to LDCs that has only managed to vaccinate only 32 per cent of population at least one shot so far. We need access to concessional resources. Debt relief is urgently needed. Donor countries must fulfil their commitments.

Second: We are happy to recognize that the reforms breeding concrete results. Resident coordinator system is fostering integration and collaboration. Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks have anchored the 2030 Agenda. We reaffirm that the capacities of the resident coordinator offices should be strengthened with new and vibrant skillsets and resources. We are calling for the RC system to be fully funded in a predictable manner.

Third: The overall funding of the United Nations Developing System (UNDS) is rising. However, regrettably, the share of the development funding has dropped to 30 per cent in 2020. While humanitarian assistance is important, it should no way be at the expense of the development assistance. This will jeopardize the balance between the three pillars of the

sustainable development. Similarly, the core resources have dropped down to only 17 per cent. We rely on you Mr. Secretary-General and to our partners to secure the balance between the three pillars of the sustainable development and between core and non-core resources.

Fourth: We are encouraged that the overall expenditure of the UNDS to LDCs have increased and accounts for 50 per cent of the total expenditures. We are concerned that while some agencies are providing special focus on LDCs, some others are not doing enough. We would request to set a benchmark by individual agencies that at least 50 per cent of their total resources go to LDCs.

Fifth: We have already adopted the Doha Programme of Action. This provides a clear roadmap for LDCs to recover from the pandemic and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. I underline the urgency of building synergy between the Doha Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. I earnestly request the UN entities to integrate the Programme of Action into their strategic document. Equally important to incorporate in the Common Country Analyses and Development Cooperation Frameworks.

Finally: We want your strong leadership in making the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs a success with the full participation of the entire UN system. We also look forward to the participation of the Heads of State /Heads of Government and the principals of the UNDS in Doha from 5-9 March 2023.

I thank you all.