



H.E. Lachezara Stoeva, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations, and President of the Economic and Social Council, 2022-2023

Meeting of the UN Resident Coordinators and National Focal Points from LDCs “Rolling out the Doha Programme of Action at the Country Level” during the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Wednesday, 8 March 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m., ECOSOC Chamber

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first, thank Ms. Rabab Fatima, Secretary-General of the LDC5 conference, for her welcome remarks.

I would like to thank the Resident Coordinators and National Focal Points here for taking your time to interact with Member States’ delegations.

This conference is taking place as the global economy is engulfed in multiple distinct yet inter-related crises. The ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic still stubbornly persist in many parts of the world. The war against Ukraine creates additional challenges for the least developed countries.

The Doha Programme of Action provides a holistic roadmap for LDCs to overcome their multi-faceted challenges. It incorporates a vision for a more inclusive and equitable world.

It aligns very closely with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It requests the Economic and Social Council to conduct periodic reviews of progress in its implementation. I am confident that the Council will make valuable contributions towards this through its segments and special meetings, as well as its oversight of the UN system support to the 2030 Agenda.

The extent to which the aspirations of the Doha Programme of Action are realized will depend on the scale of the efforts of the entire global community.



Action is required at all levels; national, regional and global – guided by a spirit of international solidarity.

The dialogues taking place today between Member States and Resident Coordinators provide critical insights into challenges and opportunities on the ground. It can help support countries' Voluntary National Reviews, of progress on the 2030 Agenda.

The Doha Programme of Action should be embedded in the preparatory process for the 2023 SDG Summit, including through the High-Level Political Forum and ECOSOC.

You all, Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, are at the frontline of UN system's support to LDCs – as called by the Doha Programme of Action. I welcome the strong cooperation with National Focal Points.

We are encouraged that the repositioning of the United Nations development system is relentlessly pushing for a more integrated, whole of system approach on supporting LDCs to maximize results for all people.

The General Assembly has emphasized ECOSOC's role in the review and guidance of the system's work in support of the General Assembly's policy orientation on UN operational activities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It called on the UN development system to enhance its support and prioritize allocations to LDCs. It is encouraging that expenditures in LDCs now represent 52 per cent of total expenditure on operational activities for development.

The General Assembly also requests greater support for graduating countries and those aspiring to graduate especially through their national transition strategies.

I welcome that the United Nations development system continues to enhance support for LDCs and their transition. More coordinated and effective planning and partnerships; the Interagency Task Force on LDC graduation and the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility are all essential. So are your combined efforts to support progress towards the SDGs guided by national ownership and needs.



We all count on you for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and the SDGs themselves.

It is rewarding to see your strong engagement in this game changing conference.

I thank you.