



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
30 May 2025

Original: English

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## 2025 session

25 July 2024–30 July 2025

Agenda item 12 (b)

### **Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries**

**Iraq:\*\*\* draft resolution**

### **Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted during the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 17 March 2022, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, and the Doha Political Declaration, adopted during the second part of the Fifth Conference, held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023,<sup>1</sup> in which the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States strongly committed themselves to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action throughout the coming decade, including its six priority areas,

*Recalling also* the strong commitment of the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States to advancing the concrete deliverables of the Doha Programme of Action with respect to the feasibility of a system of stockholding or alternative means, such as cash transfers, taking into account possible economic implications and risks, an online university or other equivalent platforms, an international investment support centre, a sustainable graduation support facility, and comprehensive multi-hazard crisis mitigation and resilience-building measures for least developed countries,

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\* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [ES-10/23](#) of 10 May 2024.

\*\* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, New York, 17 March 2022, and Doha, 5–9 March 2023* ([A/CONF.219/2023/3](#)), chap. I, resolution 2.



*Recalling further* the progress achieved in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,<sup>2</sup> as well as the previous programmes of action for the least developed countries,<sup>3</sup>

*Reaffirming* that the Doha Programme of Action is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners grounded in the overarching goals of achieving rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, strengthening labour markets by promoting the transition from informal to formal employment, enabling graduation from the least developed country category, facilitating access to sustainable and innovative financing, addressing inequalities, within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation, mainstreaming tech-driven entrepreneurship, bringing about structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on scaled-up and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>5</sup> the Paris Agreement,<sup>6</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>7</sup> and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling also* the Political Declaration adopted by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023,<sup>9</sup>

*Welcoming* the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in St. John's from 27 to 30 May 2024, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity,<sup>10</sup>

*Welcoming* the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22–23 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, at which resolution [79/1](#) entitled “The Pact for the Future” and its annexes were adopted,

*Welcoming* the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [79/233](#) of 24 December 2024, and looking forward to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Turkmenistan from 5 to 8 August 2025,

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* ([A/CONF.219/7](#)), chap. II.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1–14 September 1981* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A; *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3–14 September 1990* ([A/CONF.147/18](#)), part one; and *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Brussels, 14–20 May 2001* ([A/CONF.191/13](#)), chap. II.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution [78/1](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [78/317](#), annex.

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 79/218 of 19 December 2024 on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2024/18 of 23 July 2024 on the programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2022–2031,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

*Expressing concern* over the difficult external environment that least developed countries, including graduating countries and recently graduated countries, face in their pursuit towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their own national development goals, including progressing towards graduation from the list of least developed countries,

*Recognizing* the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin and transit and destination countries, and that remittances from migrant workers, half of whom are women, are typically wages transferred to families, primarily to meet part of the needs of the recipient households,

*Expressing concerns* over a reduction in official development assistance flows to the least developed countries which will risk reversing some of the development gains made by these countries in recent decades, with only three Development Assistance Committee donor countries meeting the target of disbursing 0.15 per cent or above of their gross national income as official development assistance to the least developed countries in 2022, down from six in 2021,

*Noting with concern* that debt burdens of least developed countries are growing rapidly, with the external debt burden of least developed countries surging to 585 billion United States dollars in 2023, a more than double increase since 2010, with global public debt as a share of gross domestic product resuming a rising trend, inching up by 2 percentage points to 94 per cent of gross domestic product, reverting to pre-pandemic trends, also realizing that the rising debt burden is squeezing fiscal space and constraining the ability of Governments to stimulate recovery and growth, and also expressing concern at higher debt servicing costs due to the recent interest rate hikes in international markets, while rendering access to finance more difficult,

*Taking note* of the 2024 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,<sup>11</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,<sup>12</sup> on multi-hazard early warning systems in the least developed countries,<sup>13</sup> on an international investment support centre for the least developed countries,<sup>14</sup> on implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support,<sup>15</sup> on food insecurity in the least developed countries: modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures for the Food Stockholding Mechanism

<sup>11</sup> Available at [https://www.un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/files/ldcs\\_ministerial\\_declaration\\_2024.pdf](https://www.un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/files/ldcs_ministerial_declaration_2024.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> A/79/75-E/2024/8.

<sup>13</sup> A/79/288.

<sup>14</sup> A/79/505.

<sup>15</sup> A/79/504.

for the Least Developed Countries<sup>16</sup> and on the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;<sup>17</sup>

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for hosting the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for providing all the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to all development partners for the support provided to the least developed countries and for the continued commitment of support to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>18</sup> including its deliverables;

4. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries;

5. *Calls upon* development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue to give strong support to graduating and recently graduated countries through tailored and effective smooth transition measures, and with a view to avoiding abrupt reduction in either official development assistance-specific trade preferences, special and differential treatment, Aid for Trade or other technical and financial assistance, and also calls for the rapid and full operationalization of the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD);

6. *Appreciates* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for the development of the road map for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, and encourages the least developed countries, development partners and all relevant stakeholders to make use of the road map;

7. *Appreciates* the least developed countries which have developed an ambitious national implementation strategy for the Doha Programme of Action and integrated its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and are conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and calls upon the rest of the least developed countries to do so urgently, with the support of their development partners;

8. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country-level review mechanisms and report dissemination, including those for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of nationally determined contributions, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the existing consultative mechanisms, to cover the review of the Doha Programme of Action and extend them to all least developed countries;

9. *Reiterates* the calls to development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Doha Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments into

<sup>16</sup> [A/79/540](#).

<sup>17</sup> [A/79/239](#).

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), annex.

results and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

10. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in 2024 in close coordination and cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

11. *Calls upon* resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions, to continue to collaborate with and provide enhanced support to national-level implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action;

12. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

13. *Decides* to devote adequate time in its programme of work to discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing the least developed countries in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments set out in the Doha Programme of Action;

14. *Also decides* to continue to include periodically during its annual session an agenda item on the review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to conduct periodic reviews of progress made and constraints confronted by least developed countries to allow for focused interaction, and requests the Development Cooperation Forum to continue to review trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, including for least developed countries and graduated countries, which will be supported by reviews by the Council's functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums;

15. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their relevant mandates, and invites those organizations to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, broadly utilizing the coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and keeping the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries active in this regard;

17. *Reaffirms its decision* to include the Doha Programme of Action as part of its review of the implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, including the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

18. *Recalls* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide increased voluntary

financial contributions and technical assistance to ensure its contribution to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action;

19. *Expresses deep concern* at the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the least developed countries, takes note of the statement dated 28 April 2020 of the Group of Least Developed Countries on COVID-19<sup>19</sup> and commits to supporting its implementation, as appropriate, and invites development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders to support the least developed countries in their recovery efforts and continued implementation of the unfulfilled agenda of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

20. *Expresses concern* that the increased pressure on food, energy and finance and growing inequalities between and within countries, elevated inflation, rising global interest rates, tightened financial conditions, high indebtedness, disruptions in supply chains, and geopolitical tensions and conflicts, together with the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and digital divides, have exacerbated challenges for many countries in addition to those associated with COVID-19 recovery, increasing hunger, and all forms of malnutrition and poverty and inequality;

21. *Notes with concern* that global progress on the Sustainable Development Goals is severely off track to realize the 2030 Agenda, with only 17 per cent displaying progress sufficient for achievement by 2030, while 30 per cent show marginal progress and 18 per cent moderate progress and, alarmingly, 18 per cent indicate stagnation and 17 per cent regression below the 2015 baseline levels, underscoring the urgent need for intensified efforts to put the Sustainable Development Goals on course,<sup>20</sup> and calls for targeted financing and support to the least developed countries necessary to enable achievement of deep economic, societal and environmental transformation;

22. *Recognizes* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is intrinsically linked to effective and sustainable financing, is deeply concerned by the marked increase of the estimated Sustainable Development Goal financing gap to between 2.5 and 4.03 trillion United States dollars, including 1.8 trillion dollars for climate needs annually for developing countries, and recognizes the urgency of providing affordable, predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries, especially the least developed countries;

23. *Calls for* stepped up action across three priorities: strengthening debt crisis prevention, including through sound debt management and transparency and developing an improved multilateral debt relief initiative that supports debt payment suspensions; debt exchanges; and debt rescheduling, including a clear mechanism to include private creditors, to address debt challenges in least developed countries;

24. *Notes with concern* that least developed countries continue to face disproportionately high poverty rates, with one third of the population still living under the international poverty line, which is posing a further threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and stresses the need for global support for the least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind, and further recognizes the importance of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law, increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, protecting and promoting human rights, reducing corruption and strengthening the

<sup>19</sup> See [A/74/843](#), annex.

<sup>20</sup> *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024* (United Nations publication, 2024).

capacity of Governments of least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

25. *Calls for* increased Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, in line with target 8.a of the 2030 Agenda, and implementing the principles of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements;

26. *Looks forward* to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Spain from 30 June to 3 July 2025, and calls for support to enable least developed countries to fully and effectively participate in the Conference and for addressing the specific challenges and needs of least developed countries to ensure that no one is left behind;

27. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges, as well as the continuing multidimensional repercussions of the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating situation of food security and nutrition, lack of finance and energy, and increase of poverty, that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

28. *Recalls* the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Doha Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

29. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution [79/226](#) of 19 December 2024 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, in order to support least developed countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and integrated manner and ensure effective delivery of support and services to programme countries in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities and needs, further urges the United Nations development system to continue to enhance its support for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to integrate and mainstream the Doha Programme of Action fully into their operational activities for development;

30. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, including the establishment of the key deliverables and capacity-building to assist least developed countries in mainstreaming the Programme of Action into their national development plans and strategies;

31. *Calls for* ensuring an incentive-based international support structure to graduating and graduated least developed countries, including support for their smooth transition from development and trading partners, as well as the United

Nations system, to make graduation smooth, irreversible and sustainable and ensure post-graduation development momentum and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

32. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Doha Programme of Action into development policies, and requests the United Nations development system to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries by developing operational guidelines with clear budget targets, as appropriate;

33. *Recalls* paragraph 309 of the Doha Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in 2026, welcomes the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the comprehensive high-level midterm review in the first quarter of 2027, and decides to elaborate on the modalities of the comprehensive high-level midterm review at the eightieth session of the Assembly;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2026 session, under the sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries” of the item entitled “Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits”, a progress report on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

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