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**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to
the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least
Developed Countries**

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2024

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/79/440/Add.1, para. 8)*]

79/218. Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,¹ and the Doha Political Declaration, adopted during the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023,² in which the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States strongly committed to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action throughout the coming decade, including its six priority areas,

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

¹ Resolution 76/258, annex.

² 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.



diverse support for the least developed countries in forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Reaffirming also that the Doha Programme of Action is grounded in six key focus areas for action and in the commitments and targets contained therein:

- (a) Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind,
- (b) Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,
- (c) Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity,
- (d) Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration,
- (e) Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development,
- (f) Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation,

Affirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ and international human rights treaties, and emphasizing the importance of fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁵ the Paris Agreement,⁶ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁷ and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),⁸

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, and welcoming the convening of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Baku from 11 to 22 November 2024,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁴ Resolution 70/1.

⁵ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁶ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

⁷ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁸ Resolution 71/256, annex.

resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the adverse impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution and other environmental degradation aspects, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts with widespread effects on people, planet, prosperity and peace affect the situation of food security, energy security, extreme poverty and inequality, global trade and market stability, which put the very viability of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 at great risk,

Recalling its resolution [78/233](#) of 22 December 2023,

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,⁹

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 of the Future" and its annexes was adopted,

Looking forward to the convening of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and to the adoption of the new Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034,

Looking forward also to the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar, from 4 to 6 November 2025,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2024/18](#) of 23 July 2024 on the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031,

Recalling also 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,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 and [76/175](#) of 16 December 2021 on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

Reaffirming its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

Recognizing the special challenges facing all developing countries in pursuing sustainable development, in particular least developed countries,

⁹ Resolution [78/317](#), annex.

Taking note of the Least Developed Countries Report 2024 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing the positive role and contributions of migrant worker remittances in least developed countries, and noting with appreciation that remittances to least developed countries continue to grow and reached 5 per cent of gross domestic product in 2023, further recognizing that remittance costs remain far above the Sustainable Development Goal target of 3 per cent of the amount transferred, in line with target 10.c of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with the world average remittance transfer cost at 6.3 per cent, highlighting that promoting faster, safer, cheaper remittances and reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances, including by adopting digital solutions and promoting digital and financial inclusion and accelerating access to transaction accounts for migrants, will have positive impacts on the millions of people who depend heavily on them,

Noting the importance of the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in helping the least developed countries in assessing their technology gaps, capacity-building needs and identifying key areas for support; promoting networking among researchers, research institutions and centres of excellence, helping such countries to access and utilize critical technologies on mutually agreed terms, drawing together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector, and implementing projects contributing to the use of science, technology and innovation for economic development in the least developed countries; and recalling with appreciation the contributions that Bangladesh, Guinea, India, Italy, Norway and Türkiye have made, as well as the pledges made by the Sudan,

Welcoming the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 26 February to 2 March 2024, and the adoption of its ministerial declaration, and recalling the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Barbados from 3 to 7 October 2021, at which the Bridgetown Covenant¹⁰ was adopted,

Looking forward to the convening of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, to be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025,

Looking forward also to the convening of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, to be co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, and to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026,

Taking note of the 2024 Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries,

Welcoming the convening of the high-level meeting on sea level rise by the President of the General Assembly and the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance on 26 September 2024 and the adoption of the political declaration on antimicrobial resistance,¹¹

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,¹² on multi-hazard early warning systems in the least developed countries,¹³ on an international investment*

¹⁰ TD/541/Add.2.

¹¹ Resolution 79/2, annex.

¹² A/79/75-E/2024/8.

¹³ A/79/288.

support centre for the least developed countries,¹⁴ on implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support,¹⁵ on food insecurity in the least developed countries: modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures for the Food Stockholding Mechanism for the Least Developed Countries¹⁶ and on the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;¹⁷

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to take action to implement the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, including by developing an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Programme of Action and integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders;

3. *Also 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 poverty reduction strategy papers, 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;

4. *Calls upon* 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, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *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;

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board;

7. *Recalls* 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 exploring the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of stockholding or alternative means, such as

¹⁴ A/79/505.

¹⁵ A/79/504.

¹⁶ A/79/540.

¹⁷ A/79/239.

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, and requests the Secretary-General to further elaborate on these deliverables and calls upon the development partners and other stakeholders to fully support the processes;

8. *Decides* 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;

9. *Notes with concern* the estimates that by 2030 much of the world's poor will live in the least developed countries, which indicate that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is not on track, stresses the need for enhanced 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, reducing inequalities, protecting and promoting human rights, reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

10. *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-19¹⁸ 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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, further highlighting the need for greater collaboration and partnerships at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the fulfilment of the least developed country-specific targets, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Expresses its concern* that the world is in the midst of a highly challenging environment in which global sustainable development prospects continue to diverge; stresses that, at the midpoint of the implementation timeline, the Sustainable Development Goals are facing big challenges, with only about 12 per cent on track and the rest either off track or regressed below the 2015 baseline and that, under current trends, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030; and expresses further concern that the increased pressure on food, energy and finance, 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; and analysis of the most recent data reveals that the least developed countries are not on track to meet the targets of the Doha Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals;

12. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly

¹⁸ See A/74/843, annex.

(Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023,¹⁹ and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

13. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's efforts to address the SDG financing gap through an SDG stimulus; and reiterates the commitment to advance the Secretary-General's proposal, in a timely manner through discussions at the United Nations as well as other relevant forums and institutions, to tackle the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, to enhance support to developing countries and to massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development and expand contingency financing to countries in need;

14. *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;

15. *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 recent devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change and the deteriorating situation of food security, lack of access to finance and energy, and increased 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 sustained recovery and rebuilding and 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;

16. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, especially the least developed countries, are faced with significantly higher borrowing costs to finance the recovery from COVID-19, leading to a greater finance divide that can undermine the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Also recognizes* that domestic public and private resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance and foreign direct investment, as appropriate, will be critical for the realization of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resources mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership;

18. *Welcomes* the commitment of development partners to ensuring the fulfilment of their respective official development assistance commitments to the least developed countries, ensuring the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national priorities and increasing the alignment of aid with the least developed countries' national systems and procedures, also welcomes the decision by the European Union by which it reaffirms its collective commitment to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and to reach 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, is encouraged by those that are allocating at least 50 per cent of their official development assistance to the least developed countries, and calls upon the development partners to continue

¹⁹ Resolution 78/1, annex.

their development assistance to the least developed countries in their efforts to overcome ongoing crises;

19. *Commends* the surpassing of 100 billion United States dollars of special drawing rights and welcomes the global ambition to voluntarily channel 100 billion dollars of special drawing rights to developing and least developing countries, calls upon Member States with strong external positions to consider the voluntary channelling of special drawing rights to countries in need, particularly to the least developed countries, in a timely manner, including through the International Monetary Fund Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, welcomes the operationalization of the International Monetary Fund Resilience and Sustainability Trust as a new mechanism to voluntarily channel special drawing rights to provide affordable long-term financing to the least developed countries and other vulnerable countries, with due consideration to national legal frameworks, and also welcomes the ongoing exploration of viable options to voluntarily channel special drawing rights through multilateral development banks; and calls for an urgent voluntary rechannelling of special drawing rights to countries most in need, including through multilateral development banks, while respecting relevant legal frameworks and preserving the reserve asset character of special drawing rights; and exploring ways for future allocations of special drawing rights to benefit those countries most in need;

20. *Notes* that the global macroeconomic outlook remains highly uncertain, and is particularly bleak for many developing countries, including a large number of least developed countries, faced with growing debt service burdens and tight fiscal constraints, and that such a finance divide will, if left unaddressed, translate into a lasting sustainable development divide; and calls for improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions, and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need;

21. *Calls upon* official creditors to make long-term sustainable financing available to least developed countries through grants and concessional funding and to offer more fixed-interest lending at low interest rates, emphasizing that this is part of a mix of financing approaches that also include grants;

22. *Stresses* the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries; urges the implementation of the decisions adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt; recalls its commitment to take concrete steps toward the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including the fund, by the twenty-eighth session; commits to continuing work to accelerate action to address climate change; and in this regard takes note of the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement that took place at the twenty-eighth session, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates;

23. *Notes with concern* that the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient to respond to worsening climate change impacts in developing country parties and recognizes the importance of the adequacy and predictability of adaptation finance, welcomes that the parties²⁰ urged developed country parties to urgently and significantly scale up their provision of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation so as to respond to the needs of developing country parties as part of a global effort, including for the

²⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or Paris Agreement.

formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, also recognizes that many least developed countries face challenges in gaining direct access to international public finance owing to a lack of technical capacity, supports the provision of assistance to least developed countries in preparing bankable projects and creating enabling environments, and encourages further efforts to enhance access to finance;

24. *Also notes with concern* that 486 million people in the least developed countries were without any access to electricity in 2022, which was almost two thirds of the total global population living without access to electricity, calls for urgent international action to address the inequalities in access to sustainable energy that are faced by the least developed countries, and encourages the doubling of international public finance and the mobilization of resources from all sources to meet the urgent need for investment in power generation and transmission;

25. *Underlines* the need for reinforcing the existing comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures, including comprehensive disaster risk financing strategies for the least developed countries aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 as a key instrument to build resilience against and mitigate the impacts of various shocks, and the commitment to making the best use of existing initiatives, providing support for capacity-building for adaptation planning and implementation, and technical assistance to develop operational national risk information systems to support policymaking, including in the insurance sector, and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on multi-hazard early warning systems in the least developed countries, as well as the comprehensive technical report entitled “Status of multi-hazard early warning systems in the least developed countries” prepared by the Office of the High Representative in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization;

26. *Welcomes* the progress made under the Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All initiative, and invites the initiative to expand its coverage to include all least developed countries, which have acute needs and are the furthest behind;

27. *Calls upon* Member States, the broader United Nations system, civil society organizations and development partners across the public and private sectors to consider the recommendations contained in report [A/79/288](#), aimed at accelerating action to address gaps and deliver people-centred and country led, end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems in the least developed countries;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, within existing reporting obligations, a comprehensive technical report, within existing resources, on the status of multi-hazard early warning systems in the least developed countries to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session with a view to assessing progress made;

29. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolution [78/322](#) of 13 August 2024 on the multidimensional vulnerability index, calls for ensuring that the least developed countries are considered in the composition of the Independent Expert Advisory Panel, as appropriate, and recognizes the potential to further improve the index, *inter alia*, by considering additional indicators to be included in future iterations of the index as well as indicators for potential refinement or approval to effectively capture the vulnerabilities of all developing countries, including least developed countries;

30. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Doha Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the

framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

31. *Underlines* the importance of promoting an enabling business environment conducive to growth and development, the absence of corruption, a transparent and rules-based regulatory framework, simplifying business regulations and processes, reducing and streamlining administrative formalities, creating efficient national support mechanisms for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, improving supply chains, facilitating access to markets, reinforcing cooperation, building capacities to implement effective competition policies, and adopting open, transparent and clear regulatory frameworks for business and investment, with protection for property rights and land rights as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances and consistent with international legal frameworks;

32. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid-for-trade, reiterates its commitment to increasing aid-for-trade support, in particular for the least developed countries, striving to allocate an increasing proportion of aid-for-trade to the least developed countries, in accordance with development cooperation effectiveness principles, welcomes additional cooperation among developing countries to that end, and encourages the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans;

33. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy, water, sanitation and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions and predictable financing, thereby maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

34. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held on 18 and 19 May 2023, to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practices, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030, and affirms its commitment to scale up efforts towards the full and timely implementation of the Sendai Framework, including its guiding principles and four priorities for action;

35. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries are especially vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and other disasters, and recognizes the high importance of building resilience in the least developed countries through stepped-up capacity-building and finance for adaptation to climate change;

36. *Recalls* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and reaffirms that disaster-prone developing countries need particular attention in view of their high vulnerability and exposure to adverse climate change impacts, recognizes that the development and implementation of risk-informed plans, policies, programmes and investments are essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, also recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to wider, growing risks, notes with serious concern the stark warnings contained in the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and notes that the Sendai Framework provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying

drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner, further recognizes the health aspects of the Sendai Framework, and stresses the need for resilient health systems;

37. *Recognizes* the need for dealing with severe food insecurity and malnutrition in least developed countries, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning; and calls upon the international financial institutions to find urgent, affordable and timely solutions to support developing countries, in particular those highly indebted, in responding to the food security crisis and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, through, but not limited to, facilitating, as appropriate, access to debt relief and concessional finance, and looks forward to the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be convened by the Government of France in 2025;

38. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on food insecurity in the least developed countries: modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures for the Food Stockholding Mechanism for the Least Developed Countries, and its recommendations, outlining the modalities, terms of reference, governance and support structures for a system of food stockholding in respect of the least developed countries, and calls for consultations with relevant United Nations entities, including Rome-based agencies, Member States, regional and international organizations and other stakeholders on the preparation of the feasibility study on options for the operationalization of the Food Stockholding Mechanism;

39. *Recognizes* that particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy equal access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to inclusive and quality education at all levels, inclusive of early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training, notes with concern, in this regard, the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education, particularly for girls, recognizes the need to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, institutes of higher education to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from the least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics, and to strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the global, regional and national levels, and also recognizes that the least developed countries have the most to gain from sustainable development and utilizing the full skills and talents of their people, including women and girls;

40. *Looks forward* to the conclusion of the feasibility studies, as mandated in the Doha Programme of Action, to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and postgraduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the least developed countries and recently graduated countries with a view to, *inter alia*, providing policy support to promote distance education and open learning for graduate and postgraduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ensuring gender balance at all levels while guaranteeing special access for the poorest and people in vulnerable situations, creating a virtual network of educational institutions within and beyond the least developed countries, assisting in course design and curriculum development, and leading to scale and sustainability of the education system, taking into account all pre-existing initiatives developed by the relevant partners in a comprehensive manner, and in this regard looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General outlining, *inter alia*, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eightieth session for its consideration;

41. *Recognizes* the need to support least developed countries in building capacity and a framework to scale up the development, deployment and sustainable utilization of emerging technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals, including strengthening of digital literacy and skills, as part of efforts to bridge digital and knowledge divides, as a prerequisite for inclusive participation in the digital economy, and to provide necessary financial and technical support to least developed countries to establish and strengthen national and regional science institutes to increase their capacity for research and development in science, technology and innovations and promote the adaptation and application of modern technologies for domestic uses;

42. *Supports* the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a focal point for the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation, also supports the Technology Bank in strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries for structural transformation and productive capacity development, invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness and to fulfil its mandate, and decides to strengthen collaboration among Governments, the private sector and academia to advance science, technology and innovation research and development, build inclusive digital economies and bridge the digital divide, including by facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms; encourages least developed countries to engage with development partners through the Technology Bank, including by utilizing the technology needs assessments; and also decides to include the topic “Report on the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries” under the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries” at its eightieth session, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report for its consideration;

43. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, reiterates the decision²¹ to provide financial and technical support for project preparation and contract negotiation, advisory support for investment-related dispute resolution, access to information on investment facilities, improving enabling environments, and risk insurance and guarantees such as through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, stresses the importance of foreign direct investment as a key source of economic development and external finance, with a complementary and catalytic role vis-à-vis domestic resource mobilization and investment and development finance, and notes with concern that foreign direct investment to the least developed countries remains below 2.5 per cent of global foreign direct investment flows, despite the fact that least developed countries are home to about 15 per cent of the global population, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on an international investment support centre for the least developed countries, urges further progress on the elaboration of such a centre, as requested in paragraph 261 of the Doha Programme of Action, and looks forward to the submission of a report by the Secretary-General on the international investment support centre for its consideration at its eightieth session;

44. *Recognizes* that increasing participation, supporting the empowerment of women, youth and civil society and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development, further reaffirms that achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls

²¹ Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 46.

and the full realization of the human rights of all people is essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

45. *Congratulates* those countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that 5 countries have graduated since 2011, 1 will graduate in December 2024, another 4 have been designated to graduate by 2027 and 10 others have met the graduation criteria at least once, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation by formulating a smooth transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard in a coordinated manner, through the full operationalization of the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD), while calling upon Member States to support this initiative with voluntary contributions;

46. *Reiterates its conviction* that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed, welcomes the fact that the United Nations graduation process helps to ensure that no graduating country has its special and differential treatment measures and exemptions reduced abruptly, invites development and trading partners to consider extending to graduated countries trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status, or reducing them in a phased manner in order to avoid their abrupt reduction, notes that the Group of Least Developed Countries put forward various proposals at the World Trade Organization, pertaining to, among other things, trade-related challenges and those related to the smooth transition of the countries graduating from the least developed country category and seeks to further examine these issues, and calls upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries so as to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

47. *Underlines* the importance of integrating support for graduating and graduated countries into the relevant work programmes of the entities of the United Nations development system in the light of the increasing number of graduating countries and their need for continued support from the United Nations development system;

48. *Recognizes* that the preparatory period before graduation is crucial for graduating countries to prepare their national smooth transition strategy, and invites bilateral, regional and multilateral development partners to support the development, preparation and implementation of countries' smooth transition strategies, including by extending least developed country-specific international support measures and appropriate incentives in accordance with the Doha Programme of Action;

49. *Recommits* to take action to strengthen international, national and local data systems efforts to collect high-quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated and reliable data on Sustainable Development Goals progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

50. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to

provide well-coordinated support to realizing, *inter alia*, the target of enabling 15 additional least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031;

51. *Also recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to undertake research and analytical work, monitor sectoral policy developments at the level of intergovernmental processes, follow up on actions taken at the national level, further strengthen the network of national focal points of least developed countries, develop operational guidelines for United Nations entities support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and support the graduating and graduated countries have increased;

52. *Recommends* that the United Nations development system organizations develop internal guidelines on how to translate the stated priorities for least developed countries into their budget allocations or their capacity-development projects, and invites the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, other international financial and development institutions to provide tailored programmes to support the least developed countries; further invites international organizations to consider how the Doha Programme of Action may inform their efforts; and also requests the United Nations development system to further expand the use of the least developed country category in programming and budgeting;

53. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Doha Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

54. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of the State of Qatar for hosting the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for providing all the necessary support to the Conference and its follow-up processes;

55. *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, including its deliverables;

56. *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, and decides to elaborate on the modalities of the comprehensive high-level midterm review at its eightieth session;

57. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness on the outcome of the Conference, including by highlighting its programme of action, objectives, key deliverables and significance;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Doha Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries”;

59. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session a progress report, within existing resources, on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures covering both graduating and recently graduated countries, including new and dedicated support measures to graduated countries in moving forward on their development path and initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category, under the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries” of the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”.

*54th plenary meeting
19 December 2024*
