



**Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)
OPENING PLENARY MEETING OF LDC5
5 March 2023, 9.00 – 10.00 am, Doha, Qatar**

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva,
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Your Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Government of Qatar for hosting this landmark gathering and for their exceptional hospitality.

It is a privilege and an honor for me to be part of this momentous Conference.

The main principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is leaving no one behind which means that priority should be given to helping those furthest behind first. And rightfully so, because collectively we are only as strong as the most vulnerable amongst us.

This Conference provides a unique opportunity for all us to ensure that through a new global partnership the Least Developed Countries are equipped to deliver on crucial development goals by 2030.

We have a collective responsibility to bolster their development efforts.

The Least Developed Countries have immense potential -rich human, cultural and natural resources.



What is needed is sustainable economic growth for all to live in peace and prosperity.

Excellencies,

The Doha Programme of Action is ambitious, innovative, bold and offers a new multistakeholder alliance for the LDCs.

It is shaped by the commitment of the LDCs and their development partners, governments at all levels, the private sector and civil society.

The United Nations system is critical to realizing the implementation of this ambitious agreement.

Half-way to 2030, we must leverage the synergies between the Doha Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We must apply accelerators in each of the six priority areas of the Doha Programme of Action.

Only this way can we overcome the impacts of the ongoing crises and regain momentum in achieving the 2030 Agenda in LDCs.

It is urgent to address the interconnected crises.

Emergency action must be complemented by longer-term efforts to ensure sustainable recovery.

Millions of young people and the growing working-age population in LDCs can drive transformative sustainable development.

It is commendable that many LDCs have graduated or are in the process of graduating from the LDC category.



This is a milestone for development.

But such graduation must be irreversible, resilient and sustainable.

This requires country-specific support from the international community. The Economic and Social Council will do its part.

The Sustainable Graduation Support Facility included in the Programme of Action aims to support a march towards sustainable graduation.

Excellencies,

All LDCs are highly vulnerable to rising prices and supply constraints for food and fuel.

Tightening financial conditions have curtailed their ability to invest in sustainable development and to address the impacts of climate change.

To turn the tide and rescue the SDGs, the Secretary-General has proposed a global SDG Stimulus.

It is important to rally to deliver it.

We must act on our commitment to ensuring adequate funding for LDCs.

Debt relief programs should be accessible to all LDCs.

Concessional public development financing should have long been scaled up.

Catalyzing higher investment flows in both physical and social infrastructure can drive green growth and human development.

It can enhance resilience to shocks and disasters.



Conducive trade and investment policies are a critical foundation for breaking out of poverty.

We need to act now.

Excellencies,

2023 is a critical year for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SDG Summit in September must turn the tide and revamp our efforts towards the SDGs. And the full implementation of the Doha Program of Action will be key if we are to succeed.

As President of the Economic and Social Council, I am committed to mobilizing the whole ECOSOC system to help LDCs move from 'Potential to Prosperity'.

Let's make a difference together!

Thank you.