



General Assembly

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Item 21 (a) of the provisional agenda*

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

Online university for least developed countries

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Member States committed themselves to undertaking feasibility studies 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 least developed countries and recently graduated countries. In the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), annex), the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report, outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources, to the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration.
2. Further to the indication in the note by the Secretary-General ([A/78/367](#)), the preparation of the report requires additional extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders in order to enable the Secretary-General to submit a report with recommendations.
3. The report of the Secretary-General will therefore be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration at its eightieth session.

* [A/79/150](#).

