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Agenda item 6 (b)

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Sudan:* draft resolution

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,²

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which it decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits”, a regular sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,

Reaffirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2009, on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”,³

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2004 on the theme “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

² Ibid., chap. II.

³ E/2009/L.12 and Corr.1; the final text will be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/64/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III.



Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,⁴

Recognizing, as noted in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,⁵ that the economic and social progress achieved by least developed countries in recent years is being threatened by the global economic crisis and that the international support provided to them needs to be increased,⁶

Taking note of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of 2008⁷ in which the need for support to be provided to the least developed countries with respect to their integration in the global trade system and financing for development was reiterated,

Recalling its resolution 2008/37 of 25 July 2008 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which the Assembly decided to convene, at a high level in 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries whose mandate would be, inter alia, to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners,

Welcoming the Declaration⁸ adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;⁹

2. *Remains concerned* about the uneven and insufficient progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010² at a time when the international community has embarked on the preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries which will undertake the comprehensive appraisal of its implementation, and stresses the urgent need to address areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in many least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

3. *Expresses its deep concern* that least developed countries are disproportionately affected by the global economic crisis, which came on the heels of

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 49.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 61/1.

⁹ A/64/80-E/2009/79.

the food and energy crisis, especially in the areas of trade, capital flows, migration and domestic resource mobilization, and that the global economic crisis threatens to reverse the economic and social progress made by many least developed countries and to hamper their long-term development;

4. *Also expresses its deep concern* that the number of people living in high extreme poverty has increased in the least developed countries in the wake of the global economic crisis, with an increasing number of people at risk for malnutrition, in particular children and women, and recognizes that there are important linkages among development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

5. *Remains concerned* that the global economic crisis is undermining the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the least developed countries, especially with respect to the poorest and most vulnerable populations, and calls for taking into account the specific needs of least developed countries in the responses to the crisis;

6. *Urges* the United Nations system organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners, in view of the global crises, to increase their assistance to the least developed countries in respect of translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities and to collaborate with and provide support to, as appropriate, the relevant national development forums and follow-up mechanisms, especially in the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

7. *Reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners, and in this regard, urges the least developed countries to further strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. *Acknowledges* the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit held in London on 2 April 2009, recognizes its commitment to its programme for revitalizing the world economy by making available an additional 1.1 trillion dollars and urges the G20 to review the limited share of 50 billion dollars allocated to low-income countries in order to adequately address the financial needs of least developed countries and to follow through with the implementation and monitoring of their commitments, including the commitments set out in the Programme of Action, and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

9. *Urges* development partners and financial and development institutions to provide adequate resources to mitigate the effects of the global economic crisis on least developed countries, in order to allow them to meet their essential spending needs for the provision of social services and safety nets, especially to prevent and eliminate child and maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as investment in productive capacity and employment creation, and at the same time to support the least developed countries in retaining debt sustainability, by making assistance flexible, concessional, fast-disbursing and front-loaded as well as by streamlining conditionalities to ensure that they are aligned with national development strategies;

10. *Also urges* development partners and financial and development institutions to take specific measures to increase the resilience of least developed countries with respect to shocks and to enable them to fully participate in the eventual recovery of the global economy;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of remittances to least developed countries and calls upon the international community to provide additional support to offset the negative effects of the financial crisis on the migrant workers of the least developed countries and their remittances;

12. *Calls for* an early, ambitious, successful and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round that increases market access, generates increased trade flows and focuses on the needs of least developed countries and emphasizes the importance of the commitment to implementing duty-free and quota-free access for least developed countries, as agreed in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;¹⁰ to making operationally effective the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries; to the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies; to disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect; to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Round and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration; and to meeting existing aid-for-trade pledges;

13. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations and the participation of all member countries, including least developed countries, in the efforts to reform the global financial architecture and to prevent future global financial and economic crises;

14. *Reiterates* its invitation to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to the graduated country and to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing them in a phased manner, and urges them to defer the graduation time frame already set out for the graduating countries in a manner consistent with their achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 target;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011;

16. *Reiterates* the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227 that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would be the focal point for the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and for coordinating the organization of pre-Conference events, including the mobilization and coordination of the active involvement of United Nations system organizations;

17. *Urges* the international community to help least developed countries to diversify their economic base through developing their productive capacities in order to benefit fully from globalization and global integration; to ensure that

¹⁰ World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN (05)/DEC. Available from <http://docsonline.org>

opportunities from globalization benefit poor people in least developed countries; and to manage risks of insecurity and exclusion;

18. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to step up appropriate measures for the preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as well as for the implementation of the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,¹¹ in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, at the Secretariat level, 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 and review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, including through such coordination mechanisms as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter agency Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators;

21. *Reiterates* the request of the General Assembly that the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to the Conference itself;

22. *Remains convinced* that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would provide renewed hope for concerted global action in support of the least developed countries and contribute to efforts to make international policies and rules governing trade, investment, finance and environment work in harmony and in coherence with national policies and strategies in least developed countries;

23. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund established for the participation of the least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, and expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions;

24. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, invites donor countries to continue to support the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by contributing, in an adequate and timely manner, to the special trust fund, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the

¹¹ See A/62/322.

necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced and to provide information on the status of the trust fund;

25. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure follow-up to their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for consideration at the general segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2010.
