



General Assembly

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Agenda item 22 (a)

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

Argentina:* draft resolution

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,² adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 26 September 2011,

Taking note of the Report on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011,³

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

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

³ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1).



Recognizing the important contribution of civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its preparatory process,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;⁴

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development framework and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action² by the least developed countries;

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

4. *Further calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation frameworks and to implement it with enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out therein to deliver their commitments in a timely manner, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute on a priority basis to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *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 Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Also calls upon* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

⁴ A/66/134.

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at their annual sessions in 2011 to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action within their respective programmes of work, and also welcomes with appreciation the adoption of a resolution by the Assemblies of the member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization to mainstream the relevant parts of the Istanbul Programme of Action into various programmes of the organization, and in this regard calls upon all other organizations to do the same on an urgent basis;

9. *Calls upon* the development partners and all other actors to fully implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action² in its eight priority areas, including providing enhanced financial and technical support to develop productive capacities, meeting and reviewing quantitative official development assistance targets for the least developed countries, improving the quality of aid, implementing duty-free quota-free market access, enhancing the share of assistance for Aid for Trade, continuing with the provision of debt relief and the consideration of debt cancellation for the least developed countries in view of the impediment that debt constitutes for their development, implementing investment promotion regimes, enhancing transfer of technology, providing enhanced concessional start-up financing for innovative enterprises in the least developed countries and improving governance at all levels;

10. *Expresses deep concern* over the adverse impact of the ongoing world financial and economic crisis on developing countries, which highlighted long-standing systemic fragilities and inequalities, stressing that the recovery has been threatened by new circumstances, including turbulence in the global financial markets and widespread fiscal strains, and that the systemic problems facing the global economy have to be resolved, including through the full accomplishment of the reform of the global financial system and architecture;

11. *Stresses* the need to vigorously pursue the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in a coordinated and coherent manner with a view to ensuring its full, effective and timely implementation at the national, regional and global levels, and in this regard notes with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, including the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and the development of a road map for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

12. *Underlines* the need for giving due priority to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries;

14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to establish, in consultation with Member States and the Secretary-General, an Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries

graduating from the least developed country category as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action and requests the Ad Hoc Working Group to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary backstopping support to the Ad Hoc Working Group;

15. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by 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;

16. *Stresses* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General in the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and to this end, the Office of the High Representative should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy works in favour of the least developed countries in partnership with Member States, in particular the least developed countries, relevant departments and offices of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and to provide appropriate support to group consultations of the least developed countries, and in this regard adequate resources should be provided to the Office of the High Representative and its capacity enhanced and strengthened to enable it to carry out successfully its important mandate given by the Istanbul Programme of Action and endorsed by the General Assembly by its resolution 65/171 of 17 June 2011;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.