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

Fiji:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the 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 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution [65/280](#) of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul 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 its resolutions [67/220](#) and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46 of 26 July 2013 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling further the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

* 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, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.



Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2013,

Taking note also of the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, entitled “State of the Least Developed Countries 2013”,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020³ and on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries;⁴

2. *Expresses serious concern* that, after a decade of welcomed steady economic growth, the least developed countries are facing significant challenges in sustaining their economic growth and their economies are estimated to have grown by 3.3 per cent in 2012, which is considerably below the target of 7 per cent per annum as set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;²

3. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Expresses its concern* about climate change as one of the greatest challenges for the least developed countries, which are especially vulnerable to its adverse impacts and already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

5. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; trade; commodities; human and social development; multiple crises and other emerging challenges; mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building; and good governance at all levels, and in this regard calls upon the development partners and invites all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted substantive and technical support to the least developed countries;

6. *Calls upon* the least developed countries and their development partners to channel more resources, including official development assistance and multilateral lending, into productive capacity-building, and in this respect encourages them to give priority to expanding the access of women, youth and the poor to factors of production, such as employability skills, finance, technology and land;

³ A/68/88-E/2013/81 and Corr.1.

⁴ A/68/217.

7. *Stresses* that the least developed countries should receive a special focus throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030 set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to designate specific focal points or organizational units within their secretariat structures with a view to ensuring consistent coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action at the agency level;

9. *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;

10. *Invites* 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;

11. *Expresses concern* over the fall of official development assistance to the least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011 and, according to preliminary estimates, a further decline in net bilateral official development assistance of 12.8 per cent in 2012, while noting that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to least developed countries at the earliest possible time;

12. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and requests the President of the General Assembly to facilitate the review in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

13. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to ensure that their allocations to the least developed countries are fixed at a minimum of 60 per cent of the resources;

14. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by

strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency and results orientation;

15. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

16. *Acknowledges with appreciation* that several countries and groups of countries are already implementing duty-free and quota-free market access to exports from the least developed countries, and calls on developed country members that have not yet done so, and developing country members declaring themselves in a position to do so, to provide duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all products originating from all least developed countries in a manner that ensures stability, security and predictability, in line with the relevant provisions of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005, including preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from the least developed countries that are simple, transparent and predictable and contribute to facilitating duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries;

17. *Reiterates the call* for necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations, in accordance with the mandate contained in paragraph 47 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, calls upon developed country members, and developing country members declaring themselves in a position to do so, to ensure timely and effective implementation and operationalization of existing commitments to least developed countries on a lasting basis, such as duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries, strongly calls for a consensus on the least developed countries package at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held from 3 to 6 December 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, that incorporates major development issues of concern to the least developed countries, in particular the issues of enhanced duty-free and quota-free market access, simple, transparent and predictable preferential rules of origin, the operationalization of a services waiver, and cotton, and also calls upon Member States to ensure a meaningful development dividend for the least developed countries in all other areas of negotiation;

18. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up to paragraph 145 of the Istanbul Programme of Action regarding the steps taken to ensure mutual accountability;

19. *Also underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

20. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

21. *Expresses its concern* that, although the least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, many of the goals and

targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to the least developed countries in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries by 2015;

22. *Reaffirms* the commitment made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁵ to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the sustainable development goals, as well as other relevant ongoing processes, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

23. *Decides* to give appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, in the processes devoted to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

24. *Also decides* to establish a technology bank under the auspices of the United Nations, and in this regard:

(a) Welcomes the generous offer of Turkey to host the technology bank, and decides to accept the offer;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to constitute a panel of experts drawn from the host country, the least developed countries and their development partners, United Nations system organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make recommendations on the structure, functions, governance mechanism, funding and staffing arrangements of the technology bank as well as its possible regional centres in the least developed countries, with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States providing secretariat support and transmit the report of the panel to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session for its consideration, with a view to operationalizing the technology bank in 2015;

(c) Calls upon the development partners to provide necessary support to the technology bank for its establishment and effective and sustained functioning;

25. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to extend necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

26. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the United Nations Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul

⁵ Resolution 66/288, annex.

Programme of Action led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

27. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries led by the Office of the High Representative, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in order to ensure necessary coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the programmes of action on a system-wide basis, invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as a standing item on the agenda of the Board, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in this regard;

28. *Notes with appreciation* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Development Group have issued operational guidelines for United Nations country teams to follow up on the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country level, and invites the Secretary-General to ensure that the Chief Executives Board continuously monitors the implementation of the guidelines;

29. *Calls upon* 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 for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from 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;

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