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GA RESOLUTION 62/203 ON THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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INTRODUCTION

1. This information document is being circulated to respond to the request of the Under Secretary General of the United Nations and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In a letter dated 8 January 2008, the High Representative solicited the GEF CEO to bring to the attention of the Council the attached resolution 62/30 of 19 December 2007 (Annex 1).

2. Council Members' attention is drawn in particular to operative paragraphs 13 and 19 of the resolution's specific recommendations to the United Nations system and international organizations on strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries during the remainder period, with a view to achieving its goals and objectives by the agreed time.

Background to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

3. The United Nations special focus on the plight of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) began in the late 1960s when it recognised those countries as the most vulnerable of the international community.

4. The International Development Strategy for the second United Nations Development Decade for the 1970s incorporated special measures in favour of the LDCs.

5. The First United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in Paris in 1981. Its main objective was to generate international attention and call for action to reverse the continuing deterioration of the socio-economic condition of these most vulnerable countries. The Conference concluded by adoption of a comprehensive Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the LDCs.

6. The SNPA was subsequently endorsed by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981 (Annex 2).

7. The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in 1990, also in Paris. The Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s were the outcomes of the Conference.

8. The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in Brussels hosted by the European Union from 14 to 20 May 2001. The Conference adopted the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (The Brussels Programme of Action). These were subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 (Annex 3).

9. To ensure the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2002 (Annex 4) also established the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked

Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) with the functions recommended by the Secretary General in his report A/56/645.

10. On 18 and 19 September 2006, halfway through the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, a high level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly was held. It undertook the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. The high level meeting concluded by the adoption of Declaration 61/1 on 19 September 2006 (Annex 5).

11. Paragraph 114 of the Brussels Programme of Action states: “The United Nations Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action at a moment to be decided upon. The General Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding a fourth UN Conference on LDCs in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of this Programme and to decide on subsequent action”. Pursuant to this, the General Assembly in its resolution 62/203 (Annex 1) has requested the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the modalities for holding a Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC IV), including the preparatory process.

12. In response, UN-OHRLLS has initiated a dialogue with partners on the key elements of this fourth conference. The premise for LDC IV is to work toward sustaining achieved progress and preventing the reversal of positive trends. LDC IV is expected to provide an opportunity to: a) undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action; b) share lessons learned and best practices, c) identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcomes of the appraisal; d) enhance partnership between all stakeholders of the process at all levels, e) reaffirm the commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development in LDCs, f) reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the LDCs made at the major UN conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit and g) mobilize international support and action.

13. UN-OHRLLS held the first planning meeting at the United Nations headquarters on 15 February 2008. This was the Ninth Inter-agency Consultative Group Meeting of the United Nations system and international organizations on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. The meeting proposed that the preparatory process would follow an inclusive and transparent approach and build synergies between all levels (national, regional and global) and tracks (UN system, intergovernmental, civil society), as well as with various multi-stakeholder events.

14. A Summary of key elements of the Brussels Programme of Action is provided in Annex 6.

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Groups of countries in special situations: third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar Tchitanava (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 57 (see A/62/422, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 25th and 33rd meetings, on 8 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.25 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.24 and A/C.2/62/L.58

2. At the 25th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/62/L.24), which read:

"The General Assembly,

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

"Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

"Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/62/422 and Add.1 and 2.

"Recalling its resolutions 61/211 of 20 December 2006 and 61/1 of 19 September 2006,

"Reaffirming its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2004 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme 'Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010',

"Taking note also of the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action, adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the least developed countries held in Turkey on 9 and 10 July 2007 on the theme 'Making globalization work for the least developed countries',

"Reaffirming that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

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

"2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on his advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

"3. Recalls the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, including the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

"4. Reaffirms its commitment to the Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting 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;

"5. Remains concerned about the insufficient and uneven progress achieved so far in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address areas of weakness in its implementation in a timely and efficient manner;

"6. Stresses that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in

the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;

“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;

“8. *Underscores* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integrated approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions;

“9. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action through their respective national development framework, including, where they exist, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

“10. *Urges* development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to make further efforts to increase their financial and technical support to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

“11. *Encourages* the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities;

“12. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations that have not yet done so to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes and to undertake within their respective mandates multi-year programming of actions in favour of the least developed countries;

“13. *Stresses*, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

“14. *Also stresses* the crucial importance of integrated and coordinated follow-up, monitoring and reporting for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

“15. *Requests*, in this regard, 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 as well as 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;

“16. *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 cooperate with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

“17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the least developed countries in all his reports in the economic, social and related fields to ensure the monitoring of their development in a broader context and prevent their further marginalization in the world economy;

“18. *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;

“19. *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 and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure, from the regular budget of the United Nations, the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

“20. *Decides* to hold a fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries towards the end of the current decade, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent actions, and, in this regard, invites Member States to consider hosting that conference;

“21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures for the implementation of the advocacy strategy;

“22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and reiterates its request that he make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.”

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries” (A/C.2/62/L.58), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.24.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.58 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China); Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; and Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine); and Bangladesh (on behalf of the Group of the least developed countries) and Serbia (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors (see A/C.2/62/SR.33).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³ in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁴

Recalling also its resolutions 61/211 of 20 December 2006 and 61/1 of 19 September 2006,

Reaffirming its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",⁵

Taking note also of the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action,⁶ adopted at the Ministerial Conference of Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul on 9 and 10 July 2007 on the theme "Making globalization work for least developed countries",

Reaffirming that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries,

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

² Ibid., chap. II.

³ See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 49.

⁶ A/62/216, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;⁷

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;⁸

3. *Welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁹ including the elaboration of the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010⁹ as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

4. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the Declaration¹⁰ adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting 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;

5. *Remains concerned* about the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address, within the time frame set by the Programme of Action, areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in some least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

6. *Welcomes* the continued economic progress of many least developed countries, which has led to the fact that a number of countries are proceeding towards graduation from the list of the least developed countries;

7. *Stresses* that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;

8. *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;

9. *Underlines* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integrated approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions encompassing:

(a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;

⁷ A/62/79-E/2007/63 and Corr.1.

⁸ A/62/322.

⁹ A/61/117, annex I.

¹⁰ See resolution 61/1.

(b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;

(c) Building human and institutional capacities;

(d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;

(e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;

(f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;

(g) Mobilizing financial resources;

10. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action through their respective national development framework, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

11. *Urges* development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

12. *Also urges* development partners to continue to support the efforts of countries graduating from the list of the least developed countries in order to better promote their further integration into the world economy, to sustain their development process and to avoid any disruption therein, including within the framework of the smooth transition strategy;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities;

14. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations that have not yet done so to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes and to undertake within their respective mandates multi-year programming of actions in favour of the least developed countries;

15. *Stresses*, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

16. *Also stresses* the crucial importance of integrated and coordinated follow-up, monitoring and reporting for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

17. *Requests*, in this regard, 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 as well as 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;

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 cooperate with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

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

20. *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;

21. *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, expresses, in this regard, its deep appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established for this purpose by the Secretary-General, 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 necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced;

22. *Recalls* paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action on holding a fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries towards the end of the current decade and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to prepare a note during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly outlining the modalities of such a conference, including its preparatory process, and also, in this regard, invites Member States to consider hosting that conference;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures for the implementation of the advocacy strategy,⁸ in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

ANNEX 2: UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 36/194 OF 17 DECEMBER 1981

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over-all energy development, and pre-investment activities, to capital investment in projects and programmes which require additional and adequate international financial resources, both public and private, from all developed countries, international financial institutions and other international organizations, and that developing countries in a position to do so should also continue to provide assistance to other developing countries;

3. *Reiterates* that the magnitude of the demand for financing such types of action or activities is already considerable and will increase in the years to come, particularly with the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* that, for the purpose of undertaking the various activities in line with the Nairobi Programme of Action, the financial mechanisms and institutions of the United Nations system should be provided with additional and adequate funds to meet the growing requirements for preliminary supporting actions and pre-investment activities related to the development of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries;

5. *Urges* financial mechanisms and institutions to respond more widely and effectively to national requests, as well as to requests from the subregional, regional and international organizations engaged in the development of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries, according to the priorities established in the Nairobi Programme of Action and in response to recommendations of the intergovernmental body referred to in section II above as regards its implementation;

6. *Reaffirms*, in this context, that specific and additional resources should be directed through such channels as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the long-term financial arrangements for science and technology, the United Nations Development Programme Energy Account and others directly or indirectly involved, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

7. *Urges* international and regional development financial organizations and institutions, in particular the World Bank, to provide additional and adequate resources specifically for large-scale supporting actions, pre-investment and investment activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, in accordance with national priorities;

8. *Takes note* of the measures taken by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to undertake a joint study for making as accurate an estimate as possible of the supporting actions and pre-investment requirements for new and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries in the 1980s and, in view of the urgency of meeting the needs of the developing countries in this field, requests that the final study be submitted to the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which is to launch the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action at its meeting in 1982;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the progress made towards the implementation of consultative meetings as outlined in paragraph 91 of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

10. *Urges* all interested parties to accelerate consideration of other possible avenues that would increase energy financing, including the mechanisms being examined in the World Bank, such as an energy affiliate.

103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1981

36/194. United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Reaffirming that in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade the General Assembly stated, *inter alia*, that as an essential priority within the Strategy, the least developed countries—the economically weakest and poorest countries with the most formidable structural problems—require a special programme of sufficient size and intensity consistent with their national plans and priorities to make a decisive break from their past and present situation and their bleak prospects;¹⁴⁶

Recalling resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,¹⁴⁷ in which the Conference decided, as one of its major priorities, to launch a Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in two phases, an Immediate Action Programme, 1979-1981, and a Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979,

Recalling also its resolutions 34/203 of 19 December 1979 and 35/205 of 16 December 1980 on convening a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries with the objective of finalizing, adopting and supporting the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries,

Deeply concerned at the gravity of the deteriorating economic and social situation of the least developed countries and their dismal development during the past two decades, as well as their bleak development prospects for the 1980s,

Recalling that the objective of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,¹⁴⁸ is to transform the economies of those countries towards self-sustained development and enable them to provide internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport and communications, housing and education as well as job opportunities to all their citizens, particularly to the rural and urban poor,

Expressing deepest concern that more than two years after the adoption of the Immediate Action Programme, 1979-1981, contained in resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, very limited progress has been made towards its implementation,

Reaffirming that there is an immediate need for a greatly expanded programme, including a major increase in the transfer of additional resources, to meet the critical needs of the least developed countries and to help them promote more rapid socio-economic development,

Stressing that external support should be forthcoming from all developed countries, developing countries in a po-

¹⁴⁶ Resolution 35/56, annex, para. 136.

¹⁴⁷ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), part one, sect. A.

¹⁴⁸ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

sition to do so, multilateral development institutions and other sources,

Emphasizing the particular importance of the contribution that economic co-operation and technical co-operation among developing countries can make, *inter alia*, to the development of the least developed among them,

Recognizing the need for extensive public awareness throughout the world of the desperate plight of the least developed countries and the importance and objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,

Taking note of the Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,¹⁴⁹

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on secretariat services for the follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,¹⁵⁰

1. *Endorses* the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;¹⁴⁸

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government and the people of France for acting as host to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as for their gracious hospitality, excellent arrangements and important contribution to the outcome of the Conference;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States as well as intergovernmental and multilateral institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and all others concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action as part of the international action for the establishment of a new international economic order;

4. *Emphasizes* that, in view of their desperate socio-economic plight, the least developed countries need the urgent and special attention and the large-scale and continued support of the international community to enable them to progress towards self-reliant development, consistent with their own plans and programmes;

5. *Strongly urges* all donor countries to implement their commitments, as stated in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve, in that regard, a substantial increase of assistance for the development of the least developed countries;

6. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries have primary responsibility for their over-all development and that, although international support measures are vitally important, the domestic policies those countries pursue will be of critical importance for the success of their development efforts;

7. *Urges* all donor countries to make adequate special allocation to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, or through other suitable channels for the least developed countries, in order to provide the extra resources needed by the Governments of those countries for more intensive planning efforts, feasibility studies and project preparation over the first half of the decade of the 1980s and, for that purpose, invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take appropriate action to mobilize additional resources for the activities under his administration;

8. *Decides* that regular review and monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels should be undertaken, as envisaged in that Programme, to

maintain the momentum of commitments made by the international community and to promote the implementation of the plans and programmes of the least developed countries with a view to achieving accelerated growth rates and structural transformation of their economies;

9. *Decides also* that the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its high-level meeting in 1985 shall carry out the mid-term review, consider the possibility of holding a global review at the end of the decade, which might, *inter alia*, take the form of a United Nations conference on the least developed countries, and readjust, as appropriate, the Substantial New Programme of Action for the second half of the decade in order to ensure its full implementation, and further decides that the results shall be made available to it, so that they may be taken fully into account in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

10. *Calls upon* States, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant agencies to give favourable response to invitations to participate in aid consultative groups or other arrangements to be established at the initiative of the least developed countries in accordance with paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Substantial New Programme of Action as a mechanism for the regular and periodic review and implementation of that Programme and suggests that the first round of review meetings for that purpose at the country level should take place as soon as possible, preferably by 1983;

11. *Invites* the governing bodies of appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take the necessary and appropriate measures for the effective implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action within their respective spheres of competence and mandates;

12. *Decides further* to ensure that resources that will be made available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are adequate for the effective follow-up, review, monitoring and implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, including those specified in the report of the Secretary-General on the secretariat services required,¹⁵⁰ as well as in paragraph 8 of the present resolution;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 123 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, to entrust the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and the lead agencies for the aid groups, with the responsibility of ensuring at the Secretariat level the full mobilization and co-ordination of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action and, for this purpose, to retain and effectively utilize the system of focal points in each United Nations agency, which was used in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.1.8.

¹⁵⁰ A/36/660.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 August 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 102

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.88 and Add.1)]

**55/279. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
for the Decade 2001–2010**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolutions 53/182 of 15 December 1998, 54/235 of 23 December 1999 and 55/214 of 20 December 2000,

1. *Endorses* the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,² adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

2. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session an item entitled “Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010”.

*107th plenary meeting
12 July 2001*

¹ A/CONF.191/12.

² A/CONF.191/11.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 106 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/569)]

56/227. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,²

Emphasizing the importance of a highly visible, efficient and effective follow-up and monitoring arrangement for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community,⁴ and relevant paragraphs of the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁵ for those countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁶

1. Decides to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, having the functions recommended by the Secretary-General in his report;⁷

¹ A/CONF.191/12.

² A/CONF.191/11.

³ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

⁵ See resolution 55/2.

⁶ A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2.

⁷ A/56/645, para. 17.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to make the Office of the High Representative operational as soon as possible;
3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to enhance the operational capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as well as that of other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in their activities aimed at supporting recipient countries, especially developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
4. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010² within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to review the title and functions of its current Office of the Special Coordinator;
6. *Invites* Member States to extend all necessary support and cooperation to the Office of the High Representative;
7. *Underlines* the importance of optimal coordination between the Office of the High Representative and the various organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations;
8. *Invites* 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;
9. *Decides* that the provisions of the present resolution shall be implemented within the approved level of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and requests the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions for the Office of the High Representative;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001*



Sixty-first session
Agenda item 56 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.2)]

61/1. Declaration of 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 for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the preparatory meeting of experts on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,¹ held in New York from 5 to 7 September 2006,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by the least developed countries and their development partners, the organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to the process of the midterm review of the Programme of Action,²

Adopts the following Declaration:

Declaration of 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 for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010

We, Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,² held on 18 and 19 September 2006:

1. Recommit ourselves to meeting the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development through the improvement of the quality of lives of people in the least

¹ A/61/323.

² A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

developed countries and the strengthening of their abilities to build a better future for themselves and develop their countries, as committed to in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010;

2. Reaffirm that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries;

3. Also reaffirm that the primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with those countries themselves, but that their efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support from Governments and international organizations in a spirit of shared responsibility through genuine partnerships, including with civil society and the private sector;

4. Support the smooth transition strategy developed for the graduation of countries from the list of least developed countries and, in this regard, affirm the need for the international community to render necessary support to the graduation of the least developed countries with a view to averting the disruption of their development projects and programmes and allowing them to continue developing;

5. Stress that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;

6. Note that, while the Programme of Action has, since its adoption, registered some progress in its implementation, at the same time the overall socio-economic situation in the least developed countries continues to be precarious;

7. Stress that, given current trends, many least developed countries are unlikely to achieve the goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action;

8. Emphasize, however, that many least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, have, despite many difficulties, produced notable achievements through wide-ranging and far-reaching reforms;

9. Acknowledge the significant efforts by development partners in the implementation of the Programme of Action, also acknowledge that there is more to be done to implement the Programme of Action, in particular in the area of poverty eradication, and recognize that the situation in the least developed countries requires continued attention;

10. Recognize that it is important to achieve the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in a timely manner and, in this regard, welcome the elaboration of the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010³ as an initiative owned and led by least developed countries;

11. Welcome the measures taken by developed and developing countries, as well as by multilateral organizations, to promote South-South cooperation and call upon them to continue to enhance their resources and efforts for capacity-building and development in the least developed countries, including the sharing of best practices in the sustainable development of the least developed countries;

³ A/61/117, annex I.

12. Call upon the international community and the United Nations system and its agencies to continue to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the conclusions of the midterm comprehensive global review;

13. Invite the Economic and Social Council to continue to ensure the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the concrete and quantifiable achievements produced in the realization of the agreed objectives.

*9th plenary meeting
19 September 2006*

ANNEX 6: SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010

Framework for partnership The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010 adopted on 20 May 2001 in Brussels aims at improving human conditions of the population of the LDCs and provides a framework for partnership between LDCs and their development partners “to accelerate sustained economic growth and sustainable development in LDCs, to end marginalization by eradicating poverty, inequality and deprivation in these countries, and to enable them to integrate beneficially into the global economy”.

Goals and targets The overarching goal of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (PoA) is “to make substantial progress toward halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015 and promote the sustainable development of the LDCs”. The Programme of Action contains 30 international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (annex 1). They are embedded in the commitments of the LDCs and their development partners.

Commitments The Programme is based on shared but differentiated responsibilities or mutual commitments of the LDCs and their development partners and articulates their policies and measures by the LDCs in seven interlinked areas: 1) fostering a people-centered policy framework; 2) good governance at national and international levels; 3) building human and institutional capacities; 4) building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs; 5) enhancing the role of trade in development; 6) reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment and 7) mobilizing financial resources.

Cross-cutting issues The Programme contains ten cross-cutting priority issues: poverty eradication, gender equality, employment, governance at national and international levels, capacity-building, sustainable development, special problems of landlocked and small island LDCs, and challenges faced by LDCs affected by conflict.

Guiding principles The implementation of the Programme of Action is guided by the following principles:

1. **An integrated approach:** The development process should be viewed in a comprehensive, coherent and long-term manner by LDCs and their partners, including the multilateral agencies within and outside the United Nations system. When addressing economic development and poverty eradication, there should be a balance between economic and other objectives of development. The implementation of the Programme of Action should be integrated into all international processes of concern to the LDCs.

2. **Genuine partnership:** With greater alignment between national policies and strategies in LDCs and the external assistance strategies of their partners, the scope for more effective dialogue between them has expanded. Open and transparent development cooperation, underpinned by strong political will, can help bring about rapid transformations in LDCs.

3. Country ownership: All efforts should be made by LDCs and their partners to ensure genuinely country-led development. This will be aided by the joint identification of development priorities by LDCs and their development partners. Also, LDCs will need to be effectively involved in areas such as aid coordination and debt relief.

4. Market considerations: While acknowledging the importance of market forces in the sustained process of economic growth and poverty reduction, there is a need to ensure an appropriate mix of public-private participation. However, this cannot be achieved without adequate attention to market weaknesses as well as government weaknesses, and consideration of the preparedness of the private sector. It is necessary to work towards a good balance between public action and private initiative. To be fully productive, however, a market must operate within a stable legal and economic framework.

5) Result orientation: Only positive concrete processes and outcomes can sustain public confidence in the development partnership between LDCs and their development partners. The process of identifying, assessing and monitoring progress on processes and concrete outcomes will be a key aspect of the implementation of the Programme of Action and its success will be judged by its contribution to progress of LDCs towards achieving international development targets, as well as their graduation from the list of LDCs.

Three track approach to the follow-up The Programme recognizes that success in attaining its objectives will depend critically on the effective follow-up, implementation, monitoring and review at the national, regional and global levels. It further emphasizes that “the implementation and the follow-up at the national level are of primary importance”.

National level Follow-up and implementation of the PoA at the national level includes mainstreaming the BPOA “in the national development framework and poverty eradication strategy , including where they exist, Poverty Reduction Strategy Ps, CCAs and UNDAF”, identification of the national mechanism (national forum) that could provide a broad based platform for the regular follow-up, review and monitoring of the implementation of the PoA at the country level and, finally, ensuring linkages between the national forum and exiting country review mechanisms such as the World Bank’s consultative group and UNDP round-table meetings that “should continue as principal coordination forums for development cooperation, as well as for mobilizing external development resources for LDCs”. In this regard, the Programme emphasizes that there should be “strong complementarities between the country review process and the national forums”.

Subregional and regional level regional follow-up should focus on cooperation between LDCs and other developing and developed countries and promote policy responses to better address the needs of the LDCs at the subregional and regional levels. The relevant UN regional economic commissions should mainstream the PoA in their work programmes and activities.

Global level follow-up at the global level envisages the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the least Developed , Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island

Developing States, annual review of the implementation by ECOSOC and comprehensive midterm review of the PoA “at a moment decided upon” by the General Assembly, holding the fourth UN conference of the LDCs and, mainstreaming the PoA in the work and intergovernmental processes of UN system and multilateral organizations. Governing bodies of UN system organizations are also invited “to organize sectoral appraisals of the Programme of Action at regular intervals in their respective areas of competence and make available the outcomes of such appraisals to the annual global reviews.” To ensure full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the UN system for the coordinated follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Programme at the secretariat level the SG has been requested to keep active the system of focal points established for the reparation of the LDC III Conference. The UNDG was invited “to consider how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of UN system – wide follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action”

Role of the UN Resident Coordinator system On the crucial role of the UN Resident Coordinator system for the country level implementation the Programme states: “ The efforts at the country level by the UN system organizations, in particular within the framework of the Resident Coordinator system, to help LDCs translate goals and targets of major global conferences and summits into concrete actions in the light of national priorities, provide an opportunity for the promotion of an effective follow-up to the commitments of the Programme of Action. This process should be strengthened”. It also requests the UN Resident Coordinator “to collaborate with and provide support to the national development forums” of the LDCs in implementing their mandates”.