

Intervention by LDCs at the
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
11 July 2018
Conference Room 4, United Nations
2018 HLPF Thematic Review - Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies:
Perspectives of LDCs, LLDCs and MICs

Mr. President
Distinguished Panelists
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of LDCs.

We commend ECOSOC for holding this thematic review and all the panelists for their insightful presentations.

It was recognized in the 2030 Agenda that the LDCs, as the poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world, need enhanced global support to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Let me highlight the status of implementation of some of the goals that the HLPF is reviewing in its current cycle which are reflected in the SG's report and its statistical annex.

Under SDG 6, the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services in 2015 was 71.2% globally, while it was only 33.4 in LDCs. Under SDG7, the proportion of population with access to electricity was 87.4 worldwide in 2016, which was only 44.8 per cent in LDCs. Universal access to electricity in all LDCs by 2030 would require \$12 billion to \$40 billion per year. Under SDG 11, on average, the percentage of the urban population living in slums was 62.67 per cent in 2014 against the global figure of 23 per cent.

Similar or even worse disparities persist in all other indicators.

We, the LDCs, are trying our level best to realize the Agenda in our respective countries. However, we are deeply worried about the lack of progress in the implementation of the SDG17.

Total net official development assistance (ODA) from DAC donors was \$41.2 billion in 2010, which has declined to 39.1 billion in 2016. Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services was 3.5 per cent in 2010 and since then has more than doubled reaching to 8.6 per cent in 2016. There has been some progress in access to internet and broadband connectivity. However, the rate is still very low, as the fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants is only 1.10 in LDCs. Similarly, proportion of individuals using the internet is 15.6 per cent in LDCs.

These facts and figures are sufficient to project the enormous challenges that LDCs have been facing in realizing the 2030 Agenda in a timely manner.

Furthermore, in addition to LDCs inherent structural impediments, they are highly vulnerable and exposed to various kinds of shocks and crises, which include those related to environment and climate change, disasters, floods, droughts, cyclones, epidemics, conflicts and other calamities.

According to some estimates, between 2010 and 2017, over 249 million people were affected in LDCs by various shocks and crises.

Given the magnitude of challenges that LDCs are facing in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, they need reinvigorated efforts at all levels to mobilize resources and technical capacities to build resilience against shocks and make rapid progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We would reiterate our call to all our development partners to reverse the declining trend in their support and to fulfil the quantifiable targets set out under goal 17, especially those related to ODA, FDI, debt relief, technology transfer, capacity building and addressing systemic issues. These should complement LDCs' sustained efforts in enhancing resource mobilization domestically. The newly operationalized Technology Bank for the LDCs in Turkey would need technical and financial support so that it can help them bridge technology gap. They also need strong social safety net programmes, fiscal buffers against shocks and market-based insurance programmes to enable them to make rapid progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a sustainable and resilient manner.

As growing number of LDCs are meeting the graduation threshold, it is important to bring the vulnerabilities after graduation into the mainstream sustainable development discourse. We urge the development and trading partners to continue their support to the graduating and the recently graduated LDCs for a sustainable and resilient graduation.

Before I conclude, I would draw the kind attention of the ECOSOC Bureau that the nature of challenges that LDCs, LLDCs and MICs are facing is divergent. Lumping all of them together in one brief session can only dilute the focus. We would, therefore, call for a fully dedicated session on LDCs from the next HLPF to enable delegates to have elaborated discussions on the challenges and priorities of LDCs.

Thank you.