



Draft Intervention

2023 United Nations high-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Panel on

**African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries
Turning the tide, regaining lost ground and embarking on the road to the SDGs**

What are game changing actions to implement the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs? What are potential solutions to support crisis response, recovery and SDG progress?

Thursday, 13 July 2023, 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Conference Room 4

Madame Chair,

Madame Moderator,

Distinguished Panelists,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- At the outset, I would like to convey my profound gratitude to H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC, for Chairing today's panel discussion. I am truly honoured to take part in this session.
- I thank H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, for her valuable insights and presentation. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the commendable efforts of OHRLLS, in mobilizing and coordinating international support and resources, and addressing the special needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Madame Moderator,

- The State of Qatar had the distinct honour to host the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in March 2023. This Conference that came at a crucial moment, was a historical and landmark event in which the international community showed a strong sense of global solidarity and support to the world's most vulnerable people.
- The highly ambitious Doha Programme of Action provides a solid foundation to meet the special needs of the LDCs, especially that it contains robust commitments and significant tools and measures to bring about the desired change.
- Putting words into action- This was manifested by the announcement of His Highness the, Amir of the State of Qatar, , for a financial contribution of a total amount of US\$60 million, of which \$10 million will be allocated to the OHRLLS for the implementation of the Doha Program of ActionS, and \$50 million will be allocated to selected initiatives of the Doha Program of Action.
- As an active partner in the international community, the State of Qatar continues to contribute to alleviating the burdens of crises and common challenges in African countries, LDCs and LLDCs, and is always exploring new pathways to promote cooperation and strategic partnerships further.

- For instance, from 2013 until May 2023, the State of Qatar, through the Qatar Fund for Development, has disbursed over \$1.3 billion to support LDCs and SIDS. In 2020, the State of Qatar's dispersed 16% of its bilateral ODA to LDCs, in 2021 23%. We are keen to keep our ODA to LDCs at at least 20% also in the future as stipulated by the Doha Program of Action.
- We also need to ensure that we are effective in providing support towards achieving the SDGs. More funding does not necessarily mean more impact unless we know the effects of our efforts. At the Qatar Fund, we have elaborated corporate results frameworks that are aligned with the SDG indicators in our priority areas education, health, economic development and climate change. This not only helps us apply a result focus in our international cooperation but to also assess our actual contribution to the SDGs in our partner countries.
- We also need to tap into additional sources of SDG finance. The Qatar Fund, for instance, is negotiating Debt2Health swaps within our engagement with the Global Fund, and we engage in blended finance modalities, for example the “Lives and Livelihoods Fund” that uses grants of different donors to soften the conditions of concessional loans of a Multilateral Development Bank to lift the poorest out of poverty.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The Doha Programme of Action can play a critical role in supporting LDCs to recover from the pandemic, build resilience and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The six priority areas identified in the Doha Programme of Action are highly pertinent and timely.
- At this stage, it is of the utmost importance to focus on ensuring the full implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, by all stakeholders, and continue to translate the commitments into practical and tangible actions and measurable results. We trust that regaining lost ground and embarking on the road to the SDGs will be possible through solidarity, intensifying and stepping up collective efforts, as well as global commitments and meaningful partnerships. By working together, we can make progress, and we can move forward in our common endeavor to ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you,