



United Nations

**Report of the Fourth
United Nations Conference
on the Least Developed
Countries**

Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011

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Preface

The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011. The mandate given to the Conference was:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

(b) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal, as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities, and the means to address them;

(c) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, in particular those needs related to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and to support the least developed countries in eradicating poverty and integrating beneficially into the global economy;

(d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries, and in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners.

In its resolution 64/213 of 21 December 2009, the General Assembly accepted the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Conference.

Further, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 64/213 and 65/171 of 20 December 2010, the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee held two sessions in New York: the first from 10 to 14 January 2011 and the second from 4 to 8 April 2011.

At the regional level, preparations included two regional review meetings: first, the Asia-Pacific regional review meeting on the Brussels Programme of Action held from 18 to 20 January 2010 in Dhaka. The second was the Africa Regional Meeting on the Brussels Programme of Action, held from 8 to 9 March 2010 in Addis Ababa.

At the country level, based on specific guidelines prepared by the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), least developed countries prepared result-oriented, analytical and forward-looking reports involving government, civil society, the private sector and local government representatives. The Conference had before it 33 country reports.

The Office of the High Representative organized four inter-agency consultative group meetings during 2009 and 2010 to coordinate the United Nations system activities in support of the preparatory process for the Conference. Forty-five United Nations system organizations participated in those meetings.

A number of pre-conference events were held in preparation for the Conference, including on the following themes: The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on the least developed countries' productive capacities and trade (Vienna, 3-4 December 2009); Migration, development and remittances in the least developed countries' context (New York, 17 June 2010); Enhancing the mobilization of financial resources for least developed countries' development (Lisbon, 2-3 October 2010); Sustainable tourism development in least developed countries (Caen, France, 12-14 October 2010); Enhanced international support and smooth transition of least developed countries towards graduation (New York, 15 October 2010); Building productive capacities in least developed countries for inclusive and sustainable development (Geneva, 27-29 October 2010); Promoting democratic governance for least developing country development: towards a more inclusive, responsive and capable state (Geneva, 8 December 2010); Aid for Trade: barriers and opportunities for least developed countries (Geneva, 13 December 2010); Enhancing food security through agricultural development and access to food and nutrition (New York, 16 December 2010); Science, technology and innovation: setting priorities, shaping and implementing policies for least developed countries (Istanbul, 7-8 February 2011); Intellectual property for least developed countries: building a knowledge base for innovation and creativity to promote development (Geneva, 14-15 February 2011); Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South cooperation for least developed countries' development (New Delhi, 18-19 February 2011); Climate change, climate variability and extremes, land degradation and biodiversity loss: challenges and opportunities (New York, 28 February 2011); Digital inclusion for least developed countries: innovation, growth and sustainability (Geneva, 7-8 March 2011); Promoting universal access to essential services (New York, 10 March 2011); and Growth, employment and decent work in least developed countries (New York, 29 March 2011).

The United Nations Secretary-General appointed a Group of Eminent Persons in 2010 with the following members: Alpha Oumar Konaré, former President of the Republic of Mali (Co-Chair of the Group); Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder and Chairperson of the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC); Nancy Birdsall, the founding President of the Center for Global Development; Kemal Dervis, Vice-President and Director of Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution; James Wolfensohn, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Wolfensohn and Company and former President of the World Bank (Co-Chair of the Group); Hiromasa Yonekura, Chairman of Sumitomo Chemical Company Ltd.; Louis Michel, Member of the European Parliament and formerly European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid; Louis A. Kasekende, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda and formerly Executive Director at the World Bank; and Sir Richard Jolly, Honorary Professor of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. A report was published before the conference.

A summit-level meeting of least developed countries was held in Istanbul on 8 May 2011, on the eve of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was opened on Monday, 9 May 2011, with an inaugural ceremony addressed by Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, President of the Conference; Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Joseph Deiss of Switzerland, President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly; Boni Yayi, President of the Republic

of Benin; José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission; Jhala Nath Khanal, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries; Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director of the World Bank.

In the course of the Conference, six high-level interactive thematic debates were held on the following topics: Enhancing productive capacities and the role of the private sector in least developed countries; Resource mobilization for least developed countries' development and global partnership; Harnessing trade for least developed countries' development and transformation; Good governance at all levels; Reducing vulnerabilities, responding to emerging challenges, and enhancing food security in the least developed countries; Human and social development, gender equality and empowerment of women.

Forty-five special events were organized by Member States, United Nations agencies and other related organizations covering a wide range of subjects of priority interest to least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action (see annex V). High-level officials, including Heads of States and Governments, heads of agencies, ministers, ambassadors, other senior government officials, renowned experts, chief executive officers and civil society representatives, participated in those events, which served not only as discussion forums, but also as venues to announce concrete deliverables aimed at supporting least developed countries in achieving their development goals, including those identified in the recently adopted Programme of Action.

On the sidelines of the intergovernmental process, three other tracks, namely the Parliamentary Forum, the Civil Society Forum and the private sector track, were also engaged actively during the Conference.

The Parliamentary Forum was held on 8 May 2011, and was the culmination of the activities of the parliamentary track of the Conference. It was convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey under the aegis of OHRLLS. The Parliamentary Forum brought together some 160 Members of Parliament from 55 countries, including 10 Speakers of Parliament.

The Civil Society Forum opened on 7 May 2011 at the Istanbul Congress Centre and its official opening ceremony was held on 8 May 2011, during which the Civil Society Global Report was launched. The Civil Society Forum attracted 1,500 participants from 270 organizations representing women's movements, youth movements, trade unions, peasant federations, media and human rights defenders. Regular meetings were held throughout the seven days at the Istanbul Congress Centre to provide a dialogue between Member State negotiators and the Civil Society Forum. At the conclusion of the Civil Society Forum, a declaration was issued (see annex VI).

The private sector track of the Conference provided an important opportunity for identifying concrete, action-oriented proposals to address least developed country-specific challenges with regard to private sector development. The private sector track was built around three interlocking components: (1) the High-level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships, which convened Heads of State and Government, heads of delegation, chief executives and other top leaders; subsequently, a private sector statement was issued to the Conference (see annex VII); (2) the Global Business

Partnership Forum, a multi-stakeholder, working-level platform for dialogue among business, investors, Government officials and other stakeholders with several workshops and plenary sessions; and (3) the Trade Fair, which showcased export and other commercial opportunities in the least developed countries; it featured an array of booths from least developed country companies, Governments and Turkish businesses.

In the course of the general debate, statements were made by 121 Member States, 13 United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and 8 intergovernmental organizations.

At its closing plenary meeting, on 13 May 2011, the Conference adopted the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. In a closing ceremony, statements were made by Ahmet Davutoğlu, the President of the Conference, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey; Cheick Sidi Diarra, Secretary-General of the Conference; Upendra Yadav, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal; Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); and Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin), Rapporteur of the Conference.

Chapter I

Istanbul Declaration*

Renewed and strengthened global partnership for the development of least developed countries

We, the Heads of State and Government and Representatives of the States participating in the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Gathered here in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011 to reiterate our commitment to the collective and shared responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at all levels,

Stressing that the least developed countries continue to confront high levels of poverty and hunger, and reaffirming that solidarity and partnership with the poorest, weakest and most vulnerable countries and their people are not only moral and ethical imperatives, but also economic and political ones, which correspond to long-term interests of the international community and serve the cause of peace, security and prosperity for all,

Emphasizing that enhancing good governance at all levels, the rule of law, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, gender equality, justice for all, democracy and peace and security are essential for sustainable development,

Underscoring the fact that while each faces specific challenges, all least developed countries share much in common,

Recognizing the progress made by least developed countries since the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in 2001,

Recognizing that not all the objectives and goals set in the Brussels Programme of Action have been fully achieved and that least developed countries remain marginalized in the world economy and continue to suffer from extreme poverty, inequality and structural weaknesses,

Expressing deep concern that many least developed countries, particularly those that are affected by conflict and criminal activities and transnational organized crime, including piracy, which, among other things, can threaten trade routes, and smuggling of and trafficking in human beings, narcotic drugs and small arms and light weapons, are lagging behind in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that these challenges require concerted efforts to address them,

Underlining that limited productive capacity and financial resources, and weak and poor infrastructure, continue to pose serious obstacles to the development efforts of the least developed countries,

* Adopted at the closing plenary meeting, on 13 May 2011; for the discussion, see chap. IV, sect. L, paras. 120-123.

Reiterating our deep concern that the ongoing impacts of economic and financial crisis, combined with volatile energy and food prices, problems of food security, rising unemployment and increasing challenges posed by climate change, natural disasters and the loss of biodiversity, are threatening the development gains that least developed countries made arduously over the years,

Recognizing that least developed countries deserve particular attention and special and well-targeted support in line with their development strategies to address their development needs and specific challenges in a coherent manner in trade, investment, finance, including official development assistance (ODA), technology and capacity-building,

Expressing our full support for least developed countries' development efforts to achieve people-centred sustainable development,

Underscoring that least developed countries represent an enormous untapped human and natural resource potential, in particular their young populations, to contribute to national development, poverty eradication, and job creation, as well as global economic growth and welfare,

Recognizing the need for enhancing the voice and participation of least developed countries in relevant multilateral institutions and international forums,

Emphasizing the importance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, which play a vital role in shaping a broad development vision of the United Nations and constitute complementary frameworks for the development activities of least developed countries,

Having adopted a Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020,

Declare that:

1. We collectively commit to finding lasting solutions to the complex and mutually exacerbating challenges and problems of the least developed countries. We are committed to assisting the least developed countries with an overarching goal of enabling half of them to meet the criteria for graduation through the eradication of poverty and the achievement of accelerated, sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development. Thus, we solemnly commit ourselves to implementing this Programme of Action throughout the coming decade.
2. We are convinced that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Istanbul Programme of Action provide positive momentum for the sustainable development of least developed countries by enhancing solidarity with the cause of least developed countries and increasing awareness of their specific conditions. Our renewed and strengthened global partnership will make a significant contribution to the common endeavours towards the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. We stress that the goals and targets of this Programme of Action can be achieved with renewed and strengthened global partnership, enhanced commitments, increased mobilization of resources for least developed countries' development and greater aid effectiveness. We commit to further strengthening our support to least developed countries in creating a favourable environment for sustainable development, increasing productive capacities, the diversification of economies and building necessary infrastructure.

4. We underscore that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in least developed countries rests with the least developed countries themselves. Good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of the least developed countries. These efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnership.

5. We recognize least developed countries' efforts to make progress in human and social development, including providing access to essential services such as education, health, water and sanitation, and shelter, as well as promoting participation in social, economic and political life. We encourage further progress in these areas.

6. We underline that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central to achieving better development outcomes, including all internationally agreed development goals as well as the Millennium Development Goals, and are essential to making progress towards social and human development and the eradication of poverty in least developed countries.

7. We affirm that ODA has a key role to play in support of least developed countries' development. In this regard, donor countries take upon themselves to fulfil all the ODA commitments to the least developed countries. They should review their ODA commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries.

8. We recognize that productive capacity-building is a development multiplier and that the renewed and strengthened partnership should give priority to this issue in the next decade in a coherent manner. In this regard:

(a) We underscore that reliable and affordable infrastructure services such as electricity, transport, information and communications technology and water, as well as institutional capacity, are critically important for building viable productive capacity in the least developed countries;

(b) We underline that a dynamic, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, and an appropriate legal framework are crucial in promoting entrepreneurship, investment, competition, innovation and economic diversification as well as achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all; are committed to creating conducive domestic and international environments in which the private sector can invest and contribute more to economic growth and sustainable development; and take note of the contributions of the High-Level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships, the Global Business Partnership Forum and the Trade Fair at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(c) We recognize the importance of the mobilization of domestic and external financial resources, including ODA, foreign direct investment, concessional lending and private flows such as remittances, as vital parts of national and international development efforts; and underline the need for enhanced support for investments, including capacity-building, to improve the environment for investment in productive sectors and infrastructure that would help the least developed countries in diversifying their economies;

(d) We undertake to promote access of least developed countries to knowledge, information, technology and know-how and to support the least developed countries in improving their scientific and innovative capacity needed for their structural transformation; agree to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis with the aim of establishing a Technology Bank and a science, technology and innovation-supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries' building on existing international initiatives; and welcome the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host an International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre and encourage commitments in this regard;

(e) We underscore that integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development policies and practices, focusing particularly on small-scale farmers and agro-businesses, as well as increased investments in least developed countries, are essential to the eradication of poverty and hunger and the achievement of food and nutritional security;

(f) We acknowledge the great potential of regional economic integration and cooperation in creating new opportunities for trade, investment, production, supply chains, and markets through improved infrastructure and connectivity; and underscore that regional integration and cooperation efforts involving least developed countries should be further enhanced and supported with the contributions of relevant regional organizations and institutions.

9. We reaffirm that international trade remains a key driver of economic growth and sustainable development in least developed countries. We strongly call on all World Trade Organization members to intensify their negotiating efforts to bring the World Trade Organization Doha Round to a successful conclusion. We commit to the realization of the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, on a lasting basis, for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005. We commit to ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are simple, transparent and predictable and contribute to facilitating market access. We emphasize the need for implementing effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building to least developed countries on a priority basis, including by enhancing the share of assistance to least developed countries for aid for trade and support for the Enhanced Integrated Framework, as appropriate, to help least developed countries to build their supply-side capacity, trade-related infrastructure and trade facilitation. In this regard, we emphasize the role of all relevant international agencies and organizations. We also underline that the accession of least developed countries to the World Trade Organization should be encouraged and facilitated.

10. New innovative finance mechanisms have potential to contribute to the development of least developed countries. Such voluntary mechanisms should be effective and should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, which

should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of finance and be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of least developed countries and not unduly burden them.

11. We are concerned that many least developed countries still struggle with a high debt burden. This situation demands the continued implementation of bold and comprehensive measures with a view to addressing the debt challenges of least developed countries effectively and equitably. Long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, responsible lending and borrowing by all creditors and debtors, sustainable economic growth, structural transformation in least developed countries and enhanced market prospects for least developed countries.

12. We emphasize the urgent need to strengthen the capacity of least developed countries in building long-term resilience to mitigate crises and effectively respond to economic shocks. We underline the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement least developed countries' efforts to this end, such as the support mechanisms designed and implemented by international financial institutions, including regional development banks and others.

13. We acknowledge the adverse impact of climate change on least developed countries and share the aim to strengthen their capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate change, bearing in mind the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The mobilization and provision of additional, adequate and predictable financial resources are necessary to address least developed countries' adaptation and mitigation needs. We welcome the decision to establish the Green Climate Fund and are looking forward to its full operationalization. We also acknowledge the need to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters through disaster preparedness and risk reduction, as well as resilience-building. We also underscore the need for access of the least developed countries to appropriate, affordable and clean technologies that foster their sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

14. We recognize that the graduation process of least developed countries should be coupled with an appropriate package of incentives and support measures so that the development process of the graduated country will not be jeopardized. In this context, we will work on the development and implementation of smooth transition strategies for graduating and graduated least developed countries. We look forward to the establishment of an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process.

15. In view of the increasingly important role of South-South cooperation in least developed countries' development, we underline the need to fully harness the opportunities offered by South-South cooperation as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. We are convinced that least developed countries benefit from enhanced and mainstreamed triangular cooperation. We seek to achieve specific development results as articulated in least developed countries' national development plans and priorities, based on solidarity and partnership within the context of South-South cooperation.

16. We acknowledge the important role of parliaments in debating development strategies, as well as in overseeing their implementation. The engagement of parliaments will ensure effectiveness, transparency and accountability in the design,

the implementation and the review of the policies and programmes in the context of the Istanbul Programme of Action. We take note of the Parliamentary Message to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

17. We call on civil society, including non-governmental organizations, voluntary associations and philanthropic foundations, the private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders at all levels to enhance their roles in the development efforts of least developed countries, as appropriate. We also take note of the Civil Society Forum Declaration of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

18. We reaffirm the critical importance of effective and efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels to assess progress in the implementation of commitments and actions contained in the Programme of Action, including by conducting a high-level comprehensive midterm review. We invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure that the Istanbul Programme of Action is followed up in an effective, efficient and visible manner.

Chapter II

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*

I. Introduction

1. The least developed countries, consisting of 48 countries with a total population of 880 million, represent the poorest and weakest segment of the international community. Least developed countries are characterized by constraints such as low per capita income, low level of human development, and economic and structural handicaps to growth that limit resilience to vulnerabilities.

2. In the decade since the adoption of the Brussels Programme of Action¹ in 2001, least developed countries have made some progress in economic, social and human development. In this regard, we welcome the efforts made by least developed countries themselves and their development partners. However, there is no room for complacency, as more than 75 per cent of the least developed countries' population still live in poverty. It is a matter of deep concern to the international community that only three countries have graduated out of this category so far in the past three decades.

3. The least developed countries continue to have the lowest per capita incomes and the highest population growth rates. They are the most off track in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and are at the bottom of the Human Development Index rankings. Least developed countries have been unable to overcome their economic vulnerability and structurally transform their economies or build resilience against internal and external shocks and crisis.

4. Least developed countries' productive capacity is limited, and they have severe infrastructure deficits. Similarly, least developed countries continue to struggle with improving human and social development. Some least developed countries lack adequate governance capacities and institutions, including those emerging from conflict.

5. An evidence-based appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 confirms that a more strategic, comprehensive, and sustained approach based on ambitious, focused and realistic commitments is required to bring about structural transformation in least developed countries that fosters accelerated, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development and helps least developed countries meet long-standing as well as emerging challenges.

6. Since the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the international economic and development landscape has been evolving, with an expansion of the number of partners and actors and more complex aid, economic and financial architecture.

* Adopted at the closing plenary meeting, on 13 May 2011; for the discussion, see chap. IV, sect. L, paras. 120-123.

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

7. In addition, new challenges have emerged. The international community has been challenged by multiple and interrelated crises, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which all have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains in least developed countries.

8. Solidarity, cooperation and partnership with the least developed countries, the poorest, most vulnerable and weakest countries and their people are not only moral imperatives, they are also economic and political ones. Least developed countries represent an enormous human and natural resource potential for world economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security. A successful renewed and strengthened global partnership that effectively addresses the special needs of least developed countries will contribute to the cause of peace, prosperity and sustainable development for all.

9. In addition to the outcomes of previous United Nations Conferences on the Least Developed Countries, the Millennium Declaration,² the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,³ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁴ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁵ the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development⁶ and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals⁷ have reaffirmed that least developed countries deserve particular attention and well-targeted support measures to eradicate poverty, accelerate economic growth, achieve sustainable development and overcome their vulnerabilities.

10. The Programme of Action for the decade 2011 to 2020 represents the enhanced commitments of the least developed countries, which have the ownership of and primary responsibility for their own development, and their development partners to a renewed and strengthened global partnership.

11. This partnership also includes the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, other multilateral institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates.

12. Guided by the spirit of solidarity with least developed countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide support for the effective implementation of the 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.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 64/299, annex.

13. The private sector, civil society and foundations will be encouraged to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with least developed countries' national priorities.

II. Review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action

14. The Brussels Programme of Action was based on seven commitments aimed at significantly improving the human conditions of people in least developed countries, through providing a framework for a strong global partnership. Its overarching goal was to make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015 and promote sustainable development in least developed countries. Significant and steady growth of gross domestic product (GDP) was seen as the main requirement for reaching the overarching goal.

15. Economic and social development was better during the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action than during the previous decade, despite large differences among individual least developed countries. Some least developed countries achieved growth rates exceeding 7 per cent annually, but in many least developed countries growth remained significantly lower and some least developed countries experienced negative growth rates. During the decade, least developed countries' participation in international trade was increased, although their share in global trade still remains marginal.

16. The least developed countries made some progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the field of universal primary education and gender equality in school enrolment, while many least developed countries are off track in the rate of progress towards the target of reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. Large imbalances within and between countries persist in terms of the human and social goals of the Brussels Programme of Action with respect to gender, rural-urban populations and other disadvantaged groups.

17. Least developed countries have also made some progress towards good governance, especially with respect to efforts to embed and institutionalize democratic governance in their own processes and with respect to the empowerment of women.

18. While the Brussels Programme of Action has had a positive role to play in the development process of the least developed countries, the specific goals and action of the Brussels Programme of Action have not been fully achieved. The improved economic performance in some least developed countries had a limited impact on employment creation and poverty reduction. In many least developed countries structural transformation was very limited, and their vulnerability to external shocks has not been reduced.

19. Changes in the sectoral composition of GDP have been much slower in many least developed countries than in other developing countries. In particular, the share of manufacturing, which has been the driving force of economic development in many middle-income countries, has increased only slowly.

20. Many least developed countries are net food importers, which has increased their vulnerability to rapid declines in export earnings and capital flows. Multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as increased food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices, and the global financial and economic crisis partly reversed development gains that least developed countries achieved over the years.

21. The implementation of development strategies in least developed countries improved and development partners increased their contributions during the period of implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. Progress has also been made in addressing the needs of least developed countries regarding financial and technical assistance, trade capacity, market access and debt relief, though not all commitments and targets have been fully realized.

22. While the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources for their development, most of them still face a huge financing gap, and ODA continued to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries. The aggregate ratio of official development assistance (ODA) to gross national income (GNI) for Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members increased from 0.05 per cent in 1997-1998 to 0.09 per cent in 2008, but remained well below the 0.15-0.20 per cent target. An increasing share of aid went to the social sectors, rather than building physical and economic infrastructure.

23. The share of least developed countries' exports in international merchandise trade increased from 0.62 per cent in 2002 to 1.08 per cent in 2008. Progress has been made towards fulfilling commitments on duty-free quota-free market access for products originating in least developed countries in conformity with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005. However, full realization is yet to be achieved. Some countries have or made considerable efforts to implement simple and transparent rules of origin for least developed country products, but other serious obstacles to trade remain, including non-tariff barriers that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules and obligations and supply-side constraints, in particular lack of infrastructure and modern technologies and energy deficiency.

24. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) have had a positive impact on development in many least developed countries, though not all least developed countries are eligible. However, owing to increased lending and borrowing during the financial crisis, debt distress continues to be a major concern for least developed countries.

25. Foreign direct investment flows to least developed countries have also increased substantially, but without a visible impact on structural change. The investment-to-GDP ratio target of 25 per cent set in the Brussels Programme of Action was met only partially by a few countries. Foreign direct investment flows remained concentrated on extractive industries, with non-resource attracting sectors receiving a limited share of overall foreign direct investment flows to least developed countries.

26. There are some important lessons learned for the new Programme of Action from the reviews of the Brussels Programme of Action at national, regional and global levels:

(a) Greater ownership and leadership of least developed countries is indispensable, including the integration of the Programme of Action into national development strategies, plans and programmes, and identification of authorities to oversee implementation, as well as multi-stakeholder engagement by parliamentarians, civil society organizations, the private sector, and executive branches;

(b) Some international support measures generated only limited results, as they were insufficient in scope and scale to achieve the goals and objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action and the specific needs of the least developed countries. In some cases there were implementation difficulties and a lack of policy coherence and consistency. International support measures should be strengthened in terms of higher priority and specific targeting of least developed countries;

(c) Treating least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour. This Programme of Action needs to fully take into account the specific geographical constraints and vulnerabilities of each least developed country, including small island and landlocked least developed countries, least developed countries with mountains and fragile ecology, low-lying coastal least developed countries, those with extreme dependency on primary commodity exports, low agricultural productivity and food insecurity, climate and environmental vulnerability, energy insecurity and least developed countries emerging from conflict;

(d) The multiple crises created a new consciousness regarding instabilities and vulnerabilities of the global economy. It is important to refocus attention on structural transformation of least developed countries through increasing productive capacity and diversification and strengthening home-grown development paths;

(e) Better integration of the Programme of Action into aid, trade and development strategies of development partners is also crucial for its successful implementation and coherence of policies;

(f) In addition to the development partners, the developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, can contribute to the implementation of the new Programme of Action within the context of South-South cooperation, as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

(g) The development strategy for the next decade should complement the export-led growth strategies by focusing on the strengthened role of domestic productive capacity, diversification, enhanced investments, infrastructural development, building technological capacity, building and strengthening the capacity of least developed country private sector that can stimulate enhanced and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and structural transformation. There should be increased attention to agriculture and rural development and to food and nutrition security. Regional integration, including in infrastructure, should also be given greater prominence;

(h) Priority areas for support should be targeted, better matching these areas with goals and targets, and specific means and tools to reach them should be identified;

(i) Focus on issues like good governance at national and international levels and the fight against corruption, respect for human rights, gender issues, building institutional capacity, social protection and social services and environmental concerns is important to a broad approach to poverty eradication;

(j) Enhanced financial resources are important to bring about structural transformation and to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication in least developed countries, as well as other goals of this Programme of Action. The quantity, quality and predictability of resources should be addressed, as well as the best ways to use dedicated regional and global facilities and mechanisms to provide support to the least developed countries;

(k) More effective representation of least developed countries in decision-making at the global level could improve the international environment for the development of the least developed countries. Wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Programme of Action into development policies;

(l) Monitoring and follow-up should not focus only on goals and targets, but also on actions, to strengthen the principle of mutual accountability.

III. Renewed and strengthened partnership for development

Objectives

27. The overarching goal of the Programme of Action for the decade 2011-2020 is to overcome 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.

28. Guided by the overarching goal, national policies of least developed countries and international support measures during the decade will focus on the following specific objectives with the aim of enabling half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020:

(a) Achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in least developed countries, to at least the level of 7 per cent per annum, by strengthening their productive capacity in all sectors through structural transformation and overcoming their marginalization through their effective integration into the global economy, including through regional integration;

(b) Build human capacities by fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) Reduce the vulnerability of least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges through strengthening their resilience;

(d) Ensure enhanced financial resources and their effective use for least developed countries' development, including through domestic resource mobilization, ODA, external debt relief, foreign direct investment and remittances;

(e) Enhance good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthen least developed country Governments' capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development.

Principles

29. The following principles will guide the implementation of the Programme of Action, based on a strengthened framework of partnership for successfully achieving its objectives:

(a) **Country ownership and leadership.** The ownership of and the leadership and primary responsibility for their own development lie with least developed countries. Least developed countries have the right and responsibility to formulate and execute their own coherent economic and development policies and strategies and identify their own national priorities, including striking a balance in the allocation of resources between economic and social sectors. Development partners should support least developed countries in the design and the implementation of their development strategies;

(b) **An integrated approach** in which the development process in least developed countries should be viewed in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The promotion of policy coherence and consistency of the international economic, financial and trading systems with the aim of increasing the quantity, quality and effectiveness of least developed country-focused international support measures and mechanisms is of key importance. The implementation of the Programme of Action should be integrated into all relevant international processes;

(c) **Genuine partnership** and solidarity with understanding and recognition that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need effective national policies, enhanced global support and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for the achievement of the goals and objectives of this Programme of Action;

(d) **Result orientation.** The success of the Programme of Action will be judged by its contribution to internationally agreed development goals and targets and enabling the least developed countries to graduate. The process of identification, monitoring and assessment of progress in implementing actions and realizing the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action will contribute to enhancing mutual accountability and effectiveness of development cooperation;

(e) **Peace and security, development and human rights,** as pillars of the United Nations system and the foundation for collective security and well-being, are interdependent, interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Development requires and strengthens freedom, peace and security, good governance, respect for all human rights, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, respect for nature and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies. The particular challenges faced by some least developed countries regarding conflict and their human, economic and social implications need to be recognized and their stability enhanced. In an interdependent and interconnected world, each member of the international community has stakes in common security, prosperity and welfare. The

eradication of poverty and hunger in least developed countries, among others, would contribute towards ensuring global stability and prosperity in a sustainable manner;

(f) **Equity** at all levels is indispensable for the pursuit of long-term prosperity and the realization of all the internationally recognized human rights, including the right to development by all. Development strategies and programmes of least developed countries and their partners should strive to enhance the participation and empowerment of the poor and marginalized in their own development and benefit the most vulnerable, ensuring social justice, democracy, gender equality and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development;

(g) **Voice and representation.** The international economic system and architecture should be inclusive and responsive to the special development needs of least developed countries, ensuring their effective participation, voice and representation at all levels;

(h) **Balanced role of the State and market considerations,** where the Government in least developed countries commits to design policies and institutions with a view to achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth that translates into full employment, decent work opportunities and sustainable development. The State also plays a significant role in stimulating the private sector towards the achievement of national development objectives and creates an appropriate enabling stable, transparent and rules-based economic environment for the effective functioning of markets.

Renewed and strengthened partnership for development

30. The Istanbul Programme of Action is based on commitments, accountability and partnership between least developed countries and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas. This requires supportive and integrated policies across a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues consistent with the objectives of this Programme of Action.

31. Each least developed country will translate policies and measures in the Programme of Action into concrete measures by integrating this Programme of Action into the national and sectoral development strategies and plans. It is recognized that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, that is, the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and international development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space.

32. National efforts of least developed countries should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of least developed countries and responding to their evolving national priorities.

33. Development partners will implement on their part this Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks,

programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action.

34. Developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, in the context of South-South cooperation, will support the effective implementation of this Programme of Action, in accordance with the provisions in section V.

35. Subregional and regional cooperation can play a critical role in promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in least developed countries, including through enhanced subregional and regional connectivity, both physical and institutional, and strengthened responses to threats and crises of various kinds. The importance of advancing and supporting subregional and regional cooperation efforts in favour of least developed countries should be stressed.

36. As long-term partners in the development process of least developed countries, the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Wood institutions, have a special role to play in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

37. Parliaments have an important role in debating development strategies as well as overseeing their implementation. The engagement of parliaments will ensure effectiveness, transparency and accountability in the design, implementation and review of the policies and programmes in the context of the Programme of Action.

38. Partnerships with the private sector play an important role for promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing the revenue potential, developing new technologies and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in least developed countries. Good governance at all levels and an enabling business environment will play a key role in this respect.

39. The Programme of Action recognizes that civil society complements government and the private sector in its implementation. Civil society organizations will be involved in policy dialogue, as appropriate, to ensure a participatory and inclusive development process in least developed countries.

40. The international trade and finance architecture should be supportive of and responsive to the special needs and priorities of least developed countries, together with enhanced coordination and coherence among the different policy areas of the international development architecture, including ODA, trade, foreign direct investment, debt and finance, taking also into account new and emerging challenges.

41. Development initiatives, including at the subregional, regional and international levels, such as the Group of 20 (G-20) Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth and its Multi-Year Action Plan, are expected to contribute to the attainment of inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in least developed countries.

42. Least developed countries and their development partners reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive, result-oriented, enhanced, quantifiable, forward-looking and coherent renewed and strengthened global partnership for least developed countries.

IV. Priority areas for action

43. The actions will be organized by priority areas as:
- A. Productive capacity
 - Infrastructure
 - Energy
 - Science, technology and innovation
 - Private sector development
 - B. Agriculture, food security and rural development
 - C. Trade
 - D. Commodities
 - E. Human and social development
 - Education and training
 - Population and primary health
 - Youth development
 - Shelter
 - Water and sanitation
 - Gender equality and empowerment of women
 - Social protection
 - F. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges
 - Economic shocks
 - Climate change and environmental sustainability
 - Disaster risk reduction
 - G. Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building
 - Domestic resource mobilization
 - Official development assistance
 - External debt
 - Foreign direct investment
 - Remittances
 - H. Good governance at all levels

A. Productive capacity

44. Least developed countries' economies feature limited productive capacities, which constrain their ability to produce efficiently and effectively and to diversify their economies. This handicap translates into binding supply constraints and

ultimately into weak export and economic potentials and limited productive employment generation and social development prospects. Building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth as well as poverty eradication, achieve structural transformation, and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all.

45. The following **goals and targets** may be pursued, in accordance with national development policies and strategies:

(a) Increase significantly the value addition in natural resource-based industries paying special attention to employment generation;

(b) Diversify local productive and export capability with a focus on dynamic value added sectors in agriculture, manufacturing and services;

(c) Significantly increase access to telecommunication services and strive to provide 100 per cent access to the Internet by 2020;

(d) Strive to increase total primary energy supply per capita to the same level as other developing countries;

(e) Significantly increase the share of electricity generation through renewable energy sources by 2020;

(f) Enhance capacities in energy production, trade and distribution with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030;

(g) Ensure that the least developed countries have significant increase in combined rail and paved road mileage and sea and air networks by 2020.

46. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on productive capacities will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Ensure that a productive-capacity development agenda is mainstreamed into national development policies and strategies;

(b) Increase the share of least developed country government spending in productive capacity-building;

(c) Establish or upgrade quality assurance and standards of products and services to meet international standards;

(d) Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, including through leveraging the contribution of, among others, micro-finance, micro-insurance, and mutual funds, in creating and expanding financial services targeted to poor and low-income populations, as well as small- and medium-size enterprises;

(e) Foster economic activity by promoting, inter alia, economic clusters, removing obstacles to business and prioritizing domestic and foreign investments, which increases connectedness;

(f) Strengthen programmes for promoting agro-processing industries with value addition as a means to increase agricultural productivity, raise rural incomes and foster stronger linkages between agriculture and industries.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide enhanced financial and technical support to least developed countries to develop productive capacities in line with least developed countries' priorities;

(b) Support least developed countries in diversification and value addition by their firms to effectively participate in the global value chains;

(c) Adopt, expand and implement investment promotion regimes, as appropriate, in the form of risk and guarantee schemes and other incentives in favour of their firms seeking to invest in productive capacity development in least developed countries;

(d) Support the development of science and technology to increase agricultural production and productivity;

(e) Support the least developed countries' efforts to develop a sustainable tourism sector, in particular through infrastructure and human capital development, increased access to finance and enhanced access to global tourism networks and distribution channels.

Infrastructure

47. One of the major challenges facing least developed countries is the lack of adequate physical infrastructure, including electricity, transport, information and communications technology (ICT) and water and institutional capacity. Reliable and affordable infrastructure services are essential for efficient operation of existing productive assets and enterprises in least developed countries, attracting new investment, connecting producers to market, assuring meaningful economic development and promoting regional integration. When designed in a regional perspective, infrastructure development could contribute to regional integration and region-wide production.

48. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on infrastructure will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Allocate and disburse annually an adequate percentage of the budget for the development and maintenance of infrastructure;

(b) Develop and implement comprehensive national policies and plans for infrastructure development and maintenance encompassing all modes of transportation and ports, communications and energy;

(c) Develop modern ICT infrastructure and Internet access, including expansion into rural and remote areas, including through mobile broadband and satellite connections;

(d) Build and expand broadband connectivity, e-networking and e-connectivity in relevant areas, including education, banking, health and governance;

(e) Promote public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of transport and ICT infrastructure and their sustainability;

(f) Promote bilateral, subregional and regional approaches to improve connectivity by removing infrastructure bottlenecks.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide enhanced financial and technical support for infrastructure development in line with least developed countries' sectoral and development needs and priorities and use concessional funds, where appropriate, to catalyse and leverage other sources of funding for infrastructure development and management;

(b) Support least developed countries' efforts to facilitate the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology for the development of infrastructure under mutually agreed terms;

(c) Actively support private sector investment, including through public-private partnerships and grant/loans blending, for infrastructure development and maintenance in communication and multimodal transport such as railways, roads, waterways, warehouses and port facilities;

(d) Provide assistance to landlocked and small-island least developed countries aimed at addressing the challenges of their remoteness from international markets and lack of infrastructure connectivity.

Energy

49. The levels of production and access to energy in the majority of least developed countries are inadequate, seriously constraining the development of least developed countries. Access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy and related technologies under mutually agreed terms and conditions and the efficient use and distribution of energy will be critically important in enhancing productive capacity, which is a key to achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

50. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on energy will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Ensure that the energy sector receives priority in budget allocation;

(b) Adopt integrated energy security development policies, strategies and plans to build a strong energy sector that ensures access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy for all and promotes sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development;

(c) Improve efficiency in the generation, transmission and distribution of energy and sustainable use of energy resources;

(d) Expand power infrastructure and increase capacity for energy generation, especially renewable energy which includes, inter alia, hydro power, geothermal, tidal, solar, wind and biomass energy.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to improve efficiency in the generation, the transmission and distribution, and the sustainable use of energy resources with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all;

(b) Support least developed countries' efforts to develop the energy sector in generation, distribution and energy efficiency, including in renewable energy, other clean energy sources and natural gas, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance and by facilitating private sector investment, in accordance with national priorities and needs;

(c) Facilitate the transfer of appropriate and affordable technology under mutually agreed terms and conditions for the development of clean and renewable energy technologies in accordance with relevant international agreements.

Science, technology and innovation

51. Science, technology and innovation play an important role in development. All least developed countries are lagging behind in these critical areas which are key drivers for transformation and have great potentials to change the development landscape of least developed countries if developed and harnessed properly. Least developed countries have often not been able to move beyond outdated technologies that characterize their production processes and outputs. Acquiring new technologies and building domestic capacity and a knowledge base to be able to fully utilize acquired technologies and promoting indigenous capacity on a sustainable basis for research and development are needed to enhance productive capacities in least developed countries. Furthermore, development of this sector should help to bridge the digital divide and technology gap in support of rapid poverty eradication and sustainable development.

52. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on science, technology and innovation will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Undertake on a priority basis by 2013 a joint gap and capacity analysis with the aim of establishing a Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation supporting mechanism, dedicated to least developed countries which would help improve least developed countries' scientific research and innovation base, promote networking among researchers and research institutions, help least developed countries access and utilize critical technologies, and draw together bilateral initiatives and support by multilateral institutions and the private sector, building on the existing international initiatives.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Build or expand strategic partnerships with a broad range of actors, including the private sector, universities and other research institutions and foundations, in order to support innovation;

(b) Ensure that science and technology are mainstreamed into least developed country national development and sectoral policies;

(c) Ensure that the development of science, technology and innovation receives priority in budget allocation;

(d) Promote investments and engagement in innovative solutions for the development of modern and cost-effective technologies that could be locally adapted, particularly in the fields of agriculture, information and communication, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education;

(e) Set up and strengthen, as applicable, institutions and expand the knowledge base to support local, national and regional research and development, science and technology;

(f) Facilitate cooperation and collaboration between research institutions and the private sector, with a view to promoting research and development and innovation in the field of science and technology.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Provide enhanced financial and technical support to least developed country research and development, science and technology, including strengthening national and regional institutions, as appropriate and in line with least developed countries' national development priorities;

(b) Urge World Trade Organization members to continue to implement article 7 of the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Public Health;

(c) Consider the provision of concessional start-up finance for least developed country firms which invest in new technologies.

Private sector development

53. A dynamic, broad-based, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector is a valuable instrument for increasing investment and trade, employment and innovation, thereby generating economic growth and eradicating poverty and serving as an engine for industrialization and structural transformation. The private sector therefore is a key to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in least developed countries.

54. Least developed countries have recognized the role of the private sector in their development process and have taken a number of measures to improve corporate governance and create an enabling environment for conducting business. Given the nature of least developed countries' economies, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises holds a promising opportunity for the emergence of a vibrant business community in least developed countries. However, structural constraints, particularly infrastructural bottlenecks, and institutional constraints have limited the growth of the private sector in least developed countries.

55. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on private sector development will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Continue promoting an enabling environment for private sector development including for small and medium-sized enterprises through a transparent and rule-based regulatory framework;

(b) Promote a dialogue between the private sector and government and strengthen public-private partnerships with a view to ensuring that policies address key constraints, including institutional constraints, to the private sector's contribution to sustainable and inclusive growth, promote corporate social responsibility and make use of potential synergies;

(c) Make efforts to promote the availability of financial services, including banking and insurance, to enhance private sector development and investments across sectors;

(d) Promote women entrepreneurship to make better use of untapped economic potential in least developed countries.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide enhanced financial and technical support, and facilitate transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms to least developed countries to remove structural and institutional constraints on the private sector;

(b) Support initiatives to strengthen the institutional and managerial capacities and the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises in least developed countries to improve their competitiveness.

B. Agriculture, food security and rural development

56. Agriculture plays a crucial role in almost all least developed countries, both in promoting food security and as the major economic activity for much of the population, with direct linkages to the eradication of poverty and hunger, rural development and gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as exports, commodity and production diversification and agro-processing capacity. It is only through access to safe and nutritious food that those living in poverty and are most at risk of chronic malnutrition, in particular women, children and the elderly, can improve their health and nutrition status.

57. The agriculture sector in least developed countries faces huge challenges owing to lack of adequate investment in physical infrastructure, scientific and technological development, research and agricultural extension services. Furthermore, agriculture development has been suffering from adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, desertification, land and soil degradation, extreme weather events, floods, droughts and cyclones, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, declining water availability and degrading water quality. Other natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis can also have negative impacts on sustainable agricultural development.

58. New investments are required in regional and national agricultural and fishery research and rural infrastructure, extension of better farming and fishing practices and innovative and sustainable technologies, as well as marketing advice, structured

and effective finance and greater tenure security, including access to and control over land by female farmers irrespective of their marital status.

59. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **targets**:

- (a) Make substantial progress towards eradicating hunger by 2020;
- (b) Substantially increase investment in rural infrastructure;
- (c) Ensure access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all least developed countries.

60. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on agriculture will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

(a) Promote responsible international investment in agriculture and call for all investors to conduct agricultural practices in accordance with national legislation, taking into account national sovereignty over natural resources, environmental sustainability and the importance of promoting the well-being and improving the livelihood of the local communities and indigenous people, as appropriate;

(b) Further explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of stockholding in dealing with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility;

(c) Pursue policy options to reduce price volatility, including improved information systems for stocks and production, greater transparency in commodity markets, and free movement of food supplies;

(d) Fulfil in the Doha Development Agenda the 2005 pledge of members of the World Trade Organization to ensure the parallel elimination in agriculture of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect to be completed by the end of 2013.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Strengthen institutions, including cooperatives, to boost small-holder farmer food production, agricultural productivity and sustainable agricultural practices;

(b) Provide safety nets to poor small-holder farmers;

(c) Supply critical inputs such as locally adapted High-yielding Varieties of seeds, fertilizers and other services;

(d) Rehabilitate both rural and agricultural infrastructure, reducing post-harvest crop losses and improving village-level storage;

(e) Make rural markets work better for the poor by linking small-scale farmers to markets throughout the food chains, including the provisions of price and other relevant information and improving sanitary and phytosanitary services;

(f) Implement irrigation schemes with a view to strengthening sustainable agriculture systems, increasing agricultural production and improving food security;

(g) Enhance land tenure security, access to irrigation systems, credit, other farm inputs and markets for small-holder farmers;

(h) Formulate and implement, in a participatory manner, effective national plans and policies relating to national food and nutritional security and agricultural and rural development, with clear and achievable targets, including an allocation of at least 10 per cent of government expenditures to agriculture;

(i) Support the establishment and strengthening of transparent, efficient and effective agricultural marketing and export systems, with particular emphasis on market access for small-holder farmers in least developed countries;

(j) Encourage small farmers and pastoralists to change gradually from the production of low-value to high-value products, taking into account specialization, favourable market and infrastructural development conditions and improved access to financial and risk management;

(k) Promote the empowerment of rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food and nutritional security and ensuring their equal access to productive resources, land, financing, technologies, training and markets;

(l) Mainstream food and nutritional security in marine and coastal resources management plans and strategies;

(m) Strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security that consists of (i) direct action to immediately tackle hunger in least developed countries; and (ii) medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security, nutrition and rural development policies and programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty;

(n) Mainstream programmes to address desertification, land degradation, soil infertility, droughts, floods and salination into national development policy frameworks to encourage resilience.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Provide enhanced financial and technical support for the development of the agricultural sector;

(b) Deliver on commitments made to achieve global food security and sustainable agricultural development, and provide adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the commitments set out in the L'Aquila initiative on global food security;

(c) Support efforts aimed at increasing agricultural production and productivity;

(d) Support least developed countries' efforts to establish or strengthen safety nets such as access to agricultural finance, insurance and other risk-mitigation tools;

(e) Provide resources to the relevant United Nations agencies to expand and enhance food assistance and safety net programmes to address hunger and malnutrition, based on needs;

(f) Support least developed countries' efforts to establish or strengthen agricultural and/or marine research and development institutions, as appropriate, in line with their national priorities, including through collaborative measures, with a view to building long-term institutional capacity;

(g) Provide and support, as appropriate, least developed countries with high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties, including saline-, drought- and submersion-compatible species, through transfer of appropriate technology and technical know-how, under mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(h) Support least developed countries to establish and upgrade their own national testing and certification institutions, as appropriate, to be recognized by global Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement institutions, and support the participation of least developed countries in regional and global standard-setting;

(i) Support least developed countries' national, regional and international agricultural and fishery research institutions, as appropriate, build capacities in tropical agricultural technologies and strengthen agricultural knowledge and information systems supported by agricultural extension services targeting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and poverty eradication in least developed countries.

C. Trade

61. Trade has an important role in ensuring least developed countries' sustainable economic development. Least developed countries' collective share in international trade has nearly doubled over the past 10 years, but it remains very low, at just over 1 per cent of world merchandise trade, and is highly concentrated on a few export products. Half of least developed countries' exports flow to developing countries.

62. Least developed countries, with support from their development partners, should address supply-side constraints by enhancing productive capacities and reducing constraints on the private sector, as well as building and diversifying their export base.

63. It is essential to seriously work towards creating favourable market access conditions for all products originating in least developed countries, including through the reduction or elimination of arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers and other trade-distorting measures.

64. Regional cooperation, including through regional trade integration and other arrangements, can facilitate least developed countries' development and their beneficial integration into the world economy by, inter alia, increasing the size of markets, improving their competitiveness and enhancing regional connectivity.

65. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Significantly increase the share of least developed countries' trade in global trade with the aim of doubling the share of least developed countries' exports in global exports by 2020, including by broadening least developed countries' export base;

(b) Make substantial efforts for an early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations with an ambitious, comprehensive, balanced and development-oriented outcome.

66. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on trade will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

(a) Resist protectionist tendencies and rectify trade-distorting measures, including in agriculture, that are inconsistent with multilateral obligations;

(b) Address non-tariff measures and reduce or eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers, i.e., those that are not in conformity with World Trade Organization rules; standards and technical regulations must be developed transparently and applied in a non-discriminatory manner, and should be technically justified and not constitute a disguised restriction on international trade;

(c) Realize timely implementation of duty-free quota-free market access, on a lasting basis, for all least developed countries consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

(d) Reaffirm the provision of special and differential treatment for least developed countries in the World Trade Organization agreements;

(e) Facilitate and accelerate negotiations with acceding least developed countries based on the accession guidelines adopted by the World Trade Organization General Council in December 2002.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Integrate trade and trade capacity-building policies into national development strategies;

(b) Improve productivity and competitiveness and diversify production bases into dynamic new products and services;

(c) Diversify export products and markets to non-traditional destinations;

(d) Improve efficiency, efficacy and transparency of institutions and processes to better facilitate trade and improve standards and quality control.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Support least developed countries' efforts to strengthen their human, institutional and regulatory capacities in trade policy and trade negotiations in areas such as market entry and access, tariffs, customs, competition, investment and technology, and regional integration;

(b) Provide technical and financial support to national and regional projects that are aimed at increasing the productivity, competitiveness and diversification of least developed country economies, including through strengthening the capacity of their trade in goods and services and of least developed countries' firms to integrate into international value chains;

(c) Provide financial and technical support aimed at the diversification of least developed country economies, while providing financial and technical

assistance through appropriate delivery mechanisms to meet their implementation obligations, including fulfilling Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade requirements, and to assist them in managing their adjustment processes, including those necessary to face the results of most favoured nation multilateral trade liberalization;

(d) Ensure that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are simple, transparent and predictable and contribute to facilitating market access;

(e) Implement effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building to least developed countries on a priority basis, including by enhancing the share of assistance to least developed countries for Aid for Trade and support for the Enhanced Integrated Framework, as appropriate, and strengthening their capacity to access available resources, in support of the needs and demands of least developed countries expressed through their national development strategies;

(f) Provide, in accordance with article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement, incentives to enterprises and institutions in developed country member territories for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least developed countries in order to enable them to create a sound and viable technological base;

(g) Support least developed countries' efforts in promoting subregional and regional cooperation, including export promotion and improving regional connectivity through trade-facilitating measures, such as joint projects on customs and border procedures, and insofar as possible transport infrastructure and linkages, telecommunications facilities and energy.

D. Commodities

67. Many least developed countries remain commodity-dependent, with a significant number relying primarily on agriculture or on the extraction of very few natural resources and primary products for export. This makes least developed countries vulnerable to external trade shocks owing to volatility of commodity prices, which also impacts domestic resource mobilization. There is a need for concerted measures and actions to support least developed countries' efforts to reduce commodity dependence, including through the diversification of their export base, and to mitigate and reduce the adverse effects of commodity price volatility.

68. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

Broaden least developed countries' economic base in order to reduce commodity dependence.

69. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on commodities will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, national commodity management strategies to maximize the benefits derived from their resource base;

(b) Adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, sector and commodity-specific policies, measures and strategies to enhance productivity and vertical diversification, ensure value addition and increase value retention.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Assist least developed countries to better mitigate and manage the risks associated with the volatility of commodity prices without distorting market behaviour by strengthening and expanding existing facilities, on a mutually agreed basis;

(b) Support measures by least developed countries, which have and shall freely exercise their full permanent sovereignty over all their wealth, natural resources and economic activities, to enhance corporate transparency and accountability of all companies, taking account of the fundamental principles of domestic law, and take note in this respect of voluntary initiatives, including the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;

(c) Support least developed countries in strengthening their capacity to manage their natural resources, including minerals, energy and agriculture, and to diversify their commodity base, including through the transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(d) Support least developed countries in strengthening effective marketing systems and support frameworks for small commodity producers in least developed countries.

E. Human and social development

70. Least developed countries' greatest assets are their women, men and children, whose potential as both agents and beneficiaries of development must be fully realized. Least developed countries face serious economic, human and social development challenges. The least developed countries will continue to face the significant burden of poverty in coming years unless concrete steps are taken to tackle its root causes in a sustainable way, including by building productive and human capacity.

71. Poverty and hunger are multidimensional problems that pose serious constraints to least developed countries' efforts to make progress in human and social development owing to inability to access essential services such as education, health, water and sanitation and to access productive resources to participate in social, economic and political life and benefit from economic growth. Least developed countries are starkly lagging behind in meeting most of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Education and training

72. Although enrolment in primary education has improved, quality and completion rates need to be enhanced and enrolment rates at the secondary and tertiary levels need to increase. In addition, there are still millions of primary-school-age children who are out of school. Although progress has been made towards eliminating gender inequality in primary education, the same is yet to be

achieved at the secondary and tertiary levels. Lack of economic opportunities, coupled with low levels and poor quality of education and lack of appropriate training, are significant causes of youth unemployment in least developed countries.

73. Policy measures on education and training to improve education rates and overall education quality in least developed countries will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Ensure universal access to free primary education in least developed countries by increasing the enrolment and retention rates, and also increase access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and skill development training;

(b) Increase the quality of education and training that is offered at all levels and increase literacy and numeracy rates of adults and children;

(c) Eliminate gender disparities in education and training and ensure equal quality of education between males and females.

74. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on education and training will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Mainstream or strengthen, as appropriate, and implement strategies and programmes for national education, technical and vocational education and training;

(b) Ensure access to and quality of education and give greater priority to progression through the education system, especially for women and girls;

(c) Strengthen national education systems, including through better curricula, financing, teacher development and deployment, and improvement in basic infrastructure and providing adequate supplies;

(d) Ensure that formal and informal education systems provide skills training required by the labour market;

(e) Strive for equity by enhancing access to education for the most disadvantaged, and increasing access to education through introducing or strengthening social protection systems, measures and incentives.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical support for least developed countries to implement their national education plans and programmes, including increased accessibility in rural and remote areas;

(b) Support least developed countries to go beyond Millennium Development Goal targets in education, especially in increasing enrolment and decreasing drop out rates through measures such as abolishing school fees, providing school meals and ensuring that schools have separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls;

(c) Provide support to least developed countries' efforts to train and retain teachers and trainers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, through adequate incentives, as a means to ensure quality education;

(d) Support least developed countries efforts to improve higher educational and technical and vocational education and training;

(e) Continue providing, and encourage, as appropriate, higher education institutes to allocate, places and scholarships for students and trainees from least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics.

Population and primary health

75. Efforts at development of human capacities in least developed countries have been affected by high incidence of poverty, mass unemployment, high population growth rates, poor health and nutrition outcomes, as evidenced by high child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates and the high burden of undernutrition, the prevalence of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and polio, and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.

76. Least developed countries face major challenges in improving the health status of their population, including weak health systems with inadequate human resources, lack of adequate health-care facilities and equipment and supplies, inadequate domestic financing structures, inadequate supplies of medicines and essential drugs and poor infrastructure. There is a need to strive towards ensuring universal access to health-care services by all.

77. Policy measures on population and primary health will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Achieve targets under Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015 and, building on these, further significantly reduce the infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates and child under-nutrition by 2020;

(b) Provide universal access to reproductive health by 2015, including integrating family planning, sexual health and health-care services in national strategies and programmes;

(c) Achieve targets under Millennium Development Goal 6 by 2015 and, building on this, further reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

78. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on population and primary health will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Reaffirm the right to use, to the full, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the World Trade Organization General Council of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendments to article 31 of the Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all and to encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard. We also call for broad and timely acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual

Property Rights, as proposed by the World Trade Organization General Council in its decision of 6 December 2005.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Take steps to realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

(b) Build on effective, multisectoral and integrated approaches for the provision of universal access to reproductive health, including integrating family planning, sexual health and health-care services in national strategies and programmes;

(c) Incorporate into their national development strategies and policies human resource development and planning for population dynamics;

(d) Continue implementing national health development plans, highlighting priority actions to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals (4, 5 and 6);

(e) Strengthen the capacity of national health systems, including through the development of medical professionals and health-care workers, to deliver equitable quality health-care services to all and promote the widest possible access to health-care services at the point of use;

(f) Strive to improve the national health system by providing adequate resources as well as incentives to retain the national health workers and consider, where possible, developing a sustainable financing mechanism for the national health system;

(g) Address country-specific high-burden health problems and maintain programmes to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable and non-communicable diseases.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical support for least developed countries to strengthen their national health systems, in particular health financing systems to improve access to affordable quality primary health-care services;

(b) Work with least developed countries to improve access to medicines, encourage the development of technology and the transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms and conditions, the production of affordable, safe, effective and good quality medicines, fostering the production of innovative medicines, generics, vaccines and other health commodities;

(c) Support least developed countries to develop their capacity to systematically collect and analyse demographic data to be used, inter alia, for designing appropriate national policies.

Youth development

79. About 60 per cent of the population of least developed countries is under the age of 25, compared with 46 per cent in other developing countries. Large youth populations are an asset for least developed countries, and should have the

opportunity to participate fully in economic, social and political life. Youth populations' potential should be maximized, including through full access to education and productive employment.

80. Policy measures on youth development will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Strive to ensure the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making processes;

(b) Build the educational and skills capacity of youth and achieve full and productive employment and decent work;

(c) Enhance youth participation in the economy through improving access to vocational education, volunteering and employment.

81. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on youth development will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Develop and pursue suitable strategies for the effective participation of youth in economic, social and political life and facilitate their interaction among themselves and with local and national authorities;

(b) Develop policies and programmes for supporting youth access to secondary and higher education, vocational training and productive employment, and health-care services, especially to young women and girls;

(c) Support the post-primary skills development, volunteering, internship and apprenticeship programmes, in consultation with the private sector and training institutions;

(d) Foster youth entrepreneurship, including through training and assistance initiatives, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged and youth in post conflict situations;

(e) Promote personal financial management education for youth and facilitate their access to appropriate financial services.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical assistance to support least developed countries' policies and programmes that provide economic opportunities and productive employment to youth;

(b) Support formal and non-formal education systems in least developed countries for capacity-building and skill development of youth and adolescent through financial and technical assistance;

(c) Promote youth exchange programmes, including through virtual campuses and other networking mechanisms.

Shelter

82. People in least developed countries often lack access to decent and affordable housing and sufficient tenure security, including access to land and basic

infrastructure, both in rural and urban areas. Much of the urban population in least developed countries live in slums that often lack basic sanitation. The lack of basic services poses a continuous health threat. Providing shelter to people living in rural areas is one of the challenges in least developed countries.

83. Policy measures on shelter will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

Increase access to affordable housing, land and housing-related infrastructure and basic services while achieving a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers and rural poor.

84. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on shelter will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Develop and implement local, national, regional plans and strategies, to promote access to land, as per national legislation, housing and basic services;

(b) Strengthen government housing agencies, including at the local level, in order to manage the housing and infrastructure sector and land administration more effectively;

(c) Create a supportive institutional, regulatory and policy environment for investment by the private sector in housing and related infrastructure, with a particular focus on the provision of low-cost housing;

(d) Seek ways of decongesting existing slums, preventing the growth of new ones and improving remaining slum housing stock;

(e) Strengthen national legislation to improve property rights of slum-dwellers and rural poor.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical support to least developed countries' efforts to improve access to land, as per national legislation, housing and basic services, taking into account the special needs for reconstruction of least developed countries devastated by natural and man-made disasters and conflicts;

(b) Support least developed countries in developing capabilities and capacities of national and local governments and institutions, including for the delivery, quality monitoring, financing, and operation and maintenance of housing and basic services;

(c) Support least developed countries, including through technology transfer under mutually agreed terms and conditions, as well as financial and technical assistance, for low-cost building, utilizing local contents and materials.

Water and sanitation

85. Significant portions of the populations in the least developed countries lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, which are fundamental to health, poverty eradication, environment protection, growth and development. Increasing

access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation through prioritizing integrated water and sanitation strategies is of significant importance in this regard.

86. Policy measures on water and sanitation will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and strive to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to all by 2020.

87. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on water and sanitation will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Develop, mainstream or strengthen, as appropriate, integrated strategies and programmes to strive to ensure sustainable access by all to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2020;

(b) Prioritize provision of water and basic sanitation in the country's national development plans;

(c) Enhance water efficiency and water productivity and ensure more equitable and safe provision of basic water and sanitation services to rural areas and disadvantaged populations, including persons with disabilities;

(d) Improve the institutional, regulatory and policy environment in least developed countries to promote private investment in the water and sanitation sector, including in small-scale projects in rural and remote communities;

(e) Strengthen integrated waste management systems as well as improve wastewater collection and treatment systems.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical support to least developed countries to improve and expand water and sanitation provision, including water pipelines and sewage networks, as well as support to strengthen the capacity of local institutions for service delivery, quality monitoring, financing, operations and maintenance;

(b) Support least developed countries' efforts to provide services to the unserved, utilizing appropriate technologies and levels of service, and strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions for service delivery, quality monitoring, financing, operations and maintenance;

(c) Help least developed countries preserve and develop water sources, manage water sheds and enhance water productivity, including through subregional and regional collaborations;

(d) Support transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms for water treatment and waste management;

(e) Support, as appropriate, partnerships and least developed countries' initiatives to improve hygiene and increase the coverage of basic sanitation, especially for the poor, including the Sanitation and Water for All partnership and "sustainable sanitation drive: the five-year drive to 2015".

Gender equality and empowerment of women

88. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central to achieving better development outcomes, including all the internationally agreed development goals as well as the Millennium Development Goals. Least developed countries have made encouraging progress on some aspects of gender equality and empowerment of women, such as in primary education and women's representation in parliament. However, further efforts are needed to end gender inequalities in access to education, health care, water and sanitation, economic opportunities such as employment, and productive resources, as well as to end gender-based violence. Gender equality and empowerment of women are essential to make progress towards social and human development and eradication of poverty in least developed countries.

89. Policy measures on gender equality and the empowerment of women will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Achieve equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, health care, economic opportunities, and decision-making at all levels;

(b) Take steps to realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

(c) Accelerate efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality, including women with disabilities.

90. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on gender equality and empowerment of women will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Support relevant United Nations agencies with a mandate in gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly UN-Women, in their efforts to improve coordination and accountability of the United Nations system in this area.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Establish and continue implementing national development plans to take account of the needs of women and girls and actively commit to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals, particularly 3, 4 and 5;

(b) Provide women and girls with full access to education and training, basic services, health care and economic opportunities, including ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, financial services and social protection;

(c) Welcoming the Secretary-General's Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health, as well as other national, regional and international initiatives in this regard, strengthen support to maternal health and increase access to family planning resources for women, men and young people;

(d) Take resolute action against violence, abuse and discrimination to ensure that women and girls have the full enjoyment of all human rights and can attain the highest living standards possible and equal participation in the economic, social and political life of their communities;

(e) Strengthen the role of relevant national mechanisms and scale up resources for gender equality and empowerment of women;

(f) Promote effective representation and participation of women in all spheres of decision-making, including the political process at all levels.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical support for least developed countries to implement policies and programmes on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including those that achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Support least developed countries in the implementation of policies and programmes that enhance women's economic and income-generating opportunities, productive employment and access to productive resources.

Social protection

91. Social protection has both short- and long-term benefits to sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication and social stability. Social protection systems, including cash transfers, public work programmes, and unemployment benefits, protect the poor and support growth, employment and broader economic resilience. These systems act as stabilizers for the economy, bolster the resilience of the poor and help prevent people from falling into poverty.

92. Policy measures on social protection will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

Enhance social protection systems to improve the resilience of all, including poor and disadvantaged groups.

93. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on social protection will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices between countries.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Mainstream social protection into the national development strategies and strive to strengthen country-led social protection policies and programmes;

(b) Implement social protection policies by ensuring allocation of adequate resources, capacity-building and appropriate financial infrastructure for the functioning of social protection systems such as cash transfers with maximum efficiency.

3. Action by development partners

Provide financial and technical support to least developed countries to develop and implement social protection policies and programmes, especially for poor and disadvantaged groups.

F. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges

94. Least developed countries continue to be vulnerable to a variety of shocks, including food, fuel, financial and economic crises, and natural disasters, with least developed countries having to confront challenges posed by climate change and some by conflicts that have eroded some of the development gains made by least developed countries over the last decade. Securing equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and development in least developed countries requires building their resilience to withstand crises and emerging challenges and the impact of climate change.

95. The following **goals and targets** will be pursued in accordance with least developed countries' national development policies and strategies:

(a) Build the resilience of least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and to mitigate their adverse effects;

(b) Strengthen least developed countries' ability to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity;

(c) Build the resilience of least developed countries to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters.

Economic shocks

96. 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 least developed countries' efforts aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects. There is therefore a need for using existing crisis mitigation facilities and measures for targeted, timely and adequate support to least developed countries. The human costs of these shocks also need to be addressed.

97. General Assembly resolution 64/291 of 27 July 2010 on human security is noted.

98. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on economic shocks will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Adopt and implement policies and regulations to guide and make the private sectors responsible players.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Develop and strengthen national risk mitigation strategies to reduce their vulnerabilities to economic shocks;

(b) Set up national crisis resilience and mitigation facilities to reduce their vulnerabilities to the impact of economic shocks.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical support for least developed countries' risk mitigation strategies, such as national facilities for crisis mitigation and resilience, to strengthen their capacity to respond to the effects of economic shocks;

(b) Continue to support the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and regional development banks' schemes and facilities to provide concessional lending and grants to least developed countries, in accordance with these institutions' own rules and procedures.

Climate change and environmental sustainability

99. Climate change disproportionately affects the socio-economic development of least developed countries, considering that they have contributed least to the problem, and also threatens to reverse some of the development gains that have been achieved to date. Some least developed countries have been compelled to divert resources away from other broader development goals to overcome the adverse impacts of climate change. Least developed countries need additional, predictable and adequate technical and financial support for climate change adaptation and mitigation in line with international commitments. Progress has been achieved in this regard under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the adoption of decisions at the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010.

100. In the implementation of this section of the Programme of Action there is a need to bear in mind the provisions of UNFCCC, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions.

101. The decisions of the Conference of the Parties also invited to undertake measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change-induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels.

102. New opportunities need to be explored for least developed countries to enhance sustained economic growth and sustainable development regarding industrialization, agriculture and services, forestry, fisheries, energy and other infrastructure, technologies and investments. They can enable least developed countries to leapfrog onto a sustainable development path and be competitive in emerging economic sectors.

103. Actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental sustainability will be based on least developed country-specific objectives defined in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goal 7, as well as commitments from multilateral environmental agreements.

104. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on climate change and environmental sustainability will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Mainstream and implement national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), medium and long-term national adaptation plans and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), and integrate these into national development plans;

(b) Build and strengthen national capacity to access and efficiently absorb relevant funding mechanisms;

(c) Strive to ensure that development plans and programmes integrate adaptation considerations, with the aim to minimize the impact of climate change on livelihoods;

(d) Develop and implement national strategies for sustainable use, preservation and protection of the national environmental resources;

(e) Develop or update, as appropriate, and implement national action plans stemming from biodiversity-related conventions;

(f) Mainstream policies dealing with climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the ecosystem, including protection and sustainable management of forests through afforestation and preventing deforestation and illegal logging, into national development policies and strategies, particularly those dealing with poverty eradication and economic sectors;

(g) Take measures to mainstream sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

2. Action by development partners

(a) In line with international conventions and agreements, provide adequate financial and technical assistance and support, as appropriate, to least developed countries to access appropriate, affordable and sustainable technologies needed for the implementation of NAPAs and NAMAs and the transfer of such technologies under mutually agreed terms;

(b) Facilitate least developed countries' access to required resources from different environment and climate funds, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF);

(c) Provide financial and technical assistance and facilitate technology transfer under mutually agreed terms to least developed countries' efforts to develop and implement national strategies for sustainable use, preservation and protection of the national environmental resources and the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems in line with their broader sustainable development strategies;

(d) Replenish and expedite, as appropriate, the disbursement of funds for adaptation to least developed countries under UNFCCC, including the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and other funds disbursed through other global and bilateral programmes;

(e) Accelerate the legal and institutional arrangements for the establishment and full operationalization of the Green Climate Fund, as part of the implementation package included in the decisions adopted during the sixteenth Conference of the

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010;

(f) Implement measures to promote and facilitate clean development mechanism projects in least developed countries to enable them to harness benefits of mitigation of climate change for sustainable development;

(g) Help least developed countries address the challenges of livelihood and food security and health of the people affected by the adverse impact of climate change and respond to the needs of the people displaced as a result of extreme weather events, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels;

(h) Support enhancing the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services of least developed countries;

(i) Assist least developed countries to enhance capacities in clean energy production, trade and distribution, including renewable energy development.

Disaster risk reduction

105. The scale and impact of natural disasters has increased over recent decades, threatening hard-won development gains.

106. Changing demographics and poor technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, underdevelopment and poor infrastructure, weak adaptive capacity, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, exposure to geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis all increase the vulnerability of least developed countries to natural hazards.

107. Least developed countries, given their structural constraints and multiple vulnerabilities, often bear a disproportionately heavy impact of these hazards and face the most daunting reconstruction challenges. Increased efforts are needed to reduce disaster losses and to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and its successor Framework or agreement.

108. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on disaster risk reduction will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Take appropriate and effective measures, including public awareness and preparedness, to reduce disaster risk for the protection of people, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(b) Promote coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies and programmes, including through integrating risk reduction into national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and medium and long-term development planning;

(c) Encourage the decentralization of responsibility and resources for disaster risk reduction, where appropriate, and encourage community participation, voluntary actions, awareness-raising and disaster preparedness in risk reduction programmes to better meet local needs for disaster risk reduction;

(d) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, risk mitigation strategies and strengthen social protection policies and programmes that take account of natural disasters;

(e) Integrate risk reduction principles into all post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Provide financial and technical assistance to least developed countries to support their disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and post-disaster reconstruction efforts, and, in this regard, strengthen sharing of knowledge and expertise as well as transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms to least developed countries;

(b) Support least developed countries to strengthen their capacity to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and to benefit from regional and international early warning systems and other information-sharing mechanisms.

G. Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building

109. The lack of financial resources is one of the biggest constraints facing least developed countries to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development and progress towards graduation. The low levels of per capita income, domestic savings and investment and a small tax base limits domestic resources. There is therefore a high reliance on external financial resources, including ODA, foreign direct investment, concessional lending and private flows such as remittances. Many least developed countries have benefited from debt relief measures under the HIPC and MDRI Initiatives. The impact of the world economic and financial crisis, combined with food and fuel crises, has undermined development efforts of least developed countries.

Domestic resource mobilization

110. There is a need for least developed countries to make substantial efforts to effectively mobilize domestic resources, build up financial infrastructure and capacities, and put in place appropriate regulatory measures and institutions. However, there is a limited scope to meet the multiple development finance requirements of least developed countries with their narrow economic bases, widespread poverty and underdeveloped private sector.

111. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Enhance the mobilization of domestic resources, including by raising domestic savings, increasing tax revenue and strengthening institutional capacity;

(b) Reduce corruption and increase transparency at all levels.

112. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on domestic resource mobilization will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Continue taking measures to create conditions for attracting and sustaining investments and mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private;

(b) Promote a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector to contribute towards generating economic activities;

(c) Develop or strengthen, as appropriate, an inclusive, sound and well regulated financial system to encourage domestic savings and investment and to improve access of small businesses and the poor and disadvantaged, particularly women and youth, to financial services such as, but not limited to, microfinance, including microcredit and micro-insurance;

(d) Continue undertaking necessary fiscal reforms, as appropriate, to build effective, transparent, fair and accountable national tax and financial management systems in least developed countries, and identify and increase access to new revenue streams, and, where appropriate, expand the tax bases;

(e) Implement measures to curtail illicit financial flows at all levels, enhance disclosure practices and promote transparency in financial information. In this regard, strengthening national and multinational efforts to address this issue is crucial, including support to least developed countries and technical assistance to enhance their capacities. Additional measures should be implemented to prevent the transfer abroad of stolen assets and to assist in the recovery and return of such assets, in particular to their countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;⁸

(f) Enhance disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries and cooperate in efforts to reduce illicit financial flows, tax evasion and corruption.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Support least developed countries to build capacity in their efforts to raise domestic resources through revenue-generation and financial sector reforms, in particular through the building of transparent, accountable and fair national tax and financial management systems;

(b) Support least developed countries in the development of an efficient, effective, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector and productive capacity, and support least developed countries to develop their capacity to benefit from private sector investments, including public-private partnership and venture capital operations, to reduce the resource gap, through the provision of financial, technical and institutional assistance;

(c) Eliminate safe havens that create incentives for transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

(d) Assist in the recovery and return of stolen assets to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(e) Enhance disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries and cooperate in efforts to reduce illicit financial flows.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Official development assistance

113. ODA flows went up from US\$ 12 billion to US\$ 38 billion in the period from 2001 to 2008, but delivery was modest compared to least developed countries' structural constraints, multiple vulnerabilities and needs.

114. There is a clear need for much more determined efforts by developed countries to fulfil, and, where possible, enhance, their ODA commitments to least developed countries.

115. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Ensure the fulfilment of all ODA commitments to least developed countries;

(b) Ensure the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national priorities and increase the alignment of aid with least developed countries' national systems and procedures.

116. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on ODA will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Integrate and align ODA within their national plans and priorities;

(b) Use aid to achieve the overall development goals contained in the Programme of Action;

(c) Build synergies among all forms of financing for development to enhance quantity and quality of support for development effectiveness;

(d) Enhance aid transparency and combat corruption by making information on aid quantities, sources and uses publicly available.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Donor countries will implement the following actions that they committed to at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as soon as possible:

(i) Donor countries providing more than 0.20 per cent of their GNP as ODA to least developed countries: continue to do so and maximize their efforts to further increase ODA to least developed countries;

(ii) Other donor countries which have met the 0.15 per cent target: undertake to reach 0.20 per cent expeditiously;

(iii) All other donor countries which have committed themselves to the 0.15 per cent target: reaffirm their commitment and undertake either to achieve the target by 2015 or to make their best efforts to accelerate their endeavours to reach the target;

(iv) During the period of the Programme of Action, the other donor countries: exercise individual best efforts to increase ODA to least developed countries with the effect that collectively their assistance to least developed countries will significantly increase;

- (v) Donor countries should review their ODA commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries;
- (b) Provide least developed country Governments with timely information in a transparent manner on annual commitments and disbursements, in order to assist least developed countries in planning their national development policies and strategies;
- (c) Use country systems as the first option for aid programmes in support of activities managed by the public sector. Should donors choose to use another option and rely on aid delivery mechanisms outside country systems (including parallel project implementation units), they will transparently state the rationale for this and will review their positions at regular intervals. Where use of country systems is not feasible, donors will establish additional safeguards and measures in ways that strengthen rather than undermine country systems and procedures;
- (d) Align aid with national priorities and strengthen capacity development in accordance with the principles of national ownership and leadership;
- (e) Enhance the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results-orientation, in line with the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action;
- (f) Improve donor coordination and harmonization to avoid fragmentation and duplication;
- (g) Continue to make progress on untying aid as encouraged by the 2001 OECD/Development Assistance Committee recommendation on untying ODA to the least developed countries;
- (h) Align the allocation of ODA to least developed countries' priorities with particular focus on productive capacity development, as appropriate, in order to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development;
- (i) Explore new innovative finance mechanisms and strengthen and scale up existing ones, where appropriate, given their potential to contribute to the development of least developed countries. Such voluntary mechanisms should be effective and aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, which should supplement, and not be a substitute for, traditional sources of finance and be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of least developed countries and not unduly burden them.

External debt

117. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 38 countries, including 25 least developed countries that have reached the completion point under the HIPC Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services. In spite of these international efforts, many least developed countries still struggle with a high debt burden. Debt service takes up a large part of their scarce budgetary resources, representing an obstacle for economic growth, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the

Millennium Development Goals. The situation demands the continued implementation of existing mechanisms. Long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, responsible lending and borrowing by all creditors and debtors, sustainable economic growth, structural transformation in least developed countries and enhanced market prospects for least developed countries.

118. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Achieve sustainable debt levels in all least developed countries, bearing in mind least developed countries' special development needs;

(b) Remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of least developed countries and continue to take effective measures within the existing frameworks;

(c) Provide specific debt relief measures for least developed countries that are not HIPC countries on a case-by-case basis.

119. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on debt relief will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Further ensure the provision of debt relief by all countries taking part in the HIPC Initiative, including non-Paris Club creditors, especially in countries where a large proportion of debt is not debt owed to Paris Club creditors.

2. Action by least developed countries

Promote and pursue responsible borrowing and public debt management policies in order to avoid an unsustainable debt burden.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Provide full and timely financing for the implementation of the HIPC Initiative and MDRI, including for the remaining eligible least developed countries in completing the HIPC initiative process;

(b) Strive to ensure that resources provided for debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and MDRI do not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for least developed countries;

(c) Further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent, and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments and innovative mechanisms such as debt swaps;

(d) Consider taking additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based and other forms of concessional financing, including through multilateral institutions;

(e) Emphasize the need for coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, while noting also that least developed countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and all creditors in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and stabilize negative macroeconomic developments.

Foreign direct investment

120. Long-term private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, have a complementary and catalytic role to play in building and strengthening productive capacity as they lead to tangible and intangible benefits, including export growth, technology and skills transfer, employment generation and poverty eradication. Policies to attract and retain foreign investment are essential components of national development strategies. In this context, a stable economic, legal and institutional framework is crucial in order to attract foreign direct investment and promote sustainable development through investment. A supportive international environment is important to this end.

121. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Attract and retain increased foreign direct investment in least developed countries, especially with the aim of diversifying the production base and enhancing productive capacity;

(b) Enhance initiatives to support investment in least developed countries.

122. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on foreign direct investment will be along the following lines:

1. Joint actions

Promote strategic and regulatory frameworks for foreign direct investment and other resource flows in this sector that include vital policy areas such as infrastructure development, trade and trade facilitation, research and development and transfer of technology.

2. Action by least developed countries

(a) Continue strengthening the national policy and regulatory framework for stimulating foreign investment in productive sectors, by, inter alia, removing barriers to investment, securing contract enforcement and promoting respect for property rights, strengthening equitable and efficient taxation systems and providing accurate information about investment conditions and opportunities in least developed countries and promote public-private partnership in this respect;

(b) Identify priority areas for investment and assess domestic capacity, resources and the extent of international investment and support needed;

(c) Establish a one-window facility for registration and oversight of new and existing foreign direct investment and other external financial flows along with necessary institutional infrastructure.

3. Action by development partners

(a) Set up and strengthen, as appropriate, initiatives to support investment in least developed countries such as insurance, guarantees and preferential financing programmes and private enterprise funds for investment in least developed countries focusing in particular on sectors that are needed to build up a diversified production base and encourage linkages with domestic production activities as well as employment creation;

(b) Support capacity-building in least developed countries, and at the regional level, as appropriate, aimed at improving their abilities to attract foreign direct investment, including the ability to negotiate mutually beneficial investment agreements and disseminate information about investment opportunities in least developed countries;

(c) Support and implement initiatives aimed at encouraging investment in least developed countries, such as export credits, risk management tools, co-financing, venture capital and other lending instruments, business development services and feasibility studies;

(d) Strengthen partnership programmes for technology transfer under mutually agreed terms by fostering linkages between foreign and domestic firms.

Remittances

123. Remittances are significant private financial resources for households in countries of origin of migration. There is a need for further efforts to lower the transaction costs of remittances and create opportunities for development-oriented investment, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered as a substitute for foreign direct investment, ODA, debt relief or other public sources of finance for development.

124. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

Reduce the transaction cost of remittance flows and foster the development impact of remittances.

125. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on remittances will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Make efforts to improve access to financial and banking services for easy transaction of remittances;

(b) Simplify migration procedures to reduce the cost of outward migration;

(c) Take appropriate measures to better utilize knowledge, skills and earnings of the returning migrants;

(d) Provide necessary information, as available, to workers seeking foreign employment.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers and the imposition of unreasonable restrictions on labour migration in order to maximize the benefits of international migration, while complying with the relevant national legislation and applicable international instruments;

(b) Consider developing, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic laws, a system of short-term migration, including workers from least developed countries;

(c) Remove unnecessary restrictions on outward remittances and support the lowering of transaction costs;

(d) Consider supporting the least developed countries in establishing the International Migrants Remittance Observatory, on a voluntary basis.

H. Good governance at all levels

126. Good governance and the rule of law at the local, national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. They are also essential for the achievement of the commitments embodied in this Programme of Action.

127. Many least developed countries have made progress over the last decade in good governance, the rule of law, the protection and promotion of human rights, and democratic participation. This progress needs to be further enhanced and the governance issues at hand be given further priority.

128. Sustainable development in least developed countries is closely linked to peace and security. Conflict-affected least developed countries require context-specific approaches to address poverty, security and governance in an integrated manner. Progress in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development has been slowest in least developed countries affected by conflicts. Poverty and hunger are also among the causes of conflict in least developed countries. Conflict resolution and peace processes should be nationally owned and led. Appropriate national policies and strategies will be required to promote confidence-building, conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes. Targeted national policies and assistance and international support measures are required for least developed countries affected by conflict to address the challenges related to peacebuilding, nation building, reconstruction and rehabilitation and to improve and strengthen governance as per their request. The least developed countries that are associated with the Dili Declaration of April 2010 regard it as a basic framework for them to address post-conflict challenges.

129. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following **goals and targets**:

(a) Strengthen good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, and democratic participation, including by enhancing the role of parliaments;

(b) Strengthen and effectively implement measures to prevent corruption and to increase transparency of budgets and expenditure;

(c) Enhance the institutional capacity of least developed countries to ensure good governance;

(d) Ensure that resources to least developed countries are provided and used in a predictable, transparent and timely manner;

(e) Provide continued support for strengthened and effective voice and participation of least developed countries in relevant international forums;

(f) Build durable peace and ensure stability, security and sustainable and inclusive development in least developed countries.

130. Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners on governance will be along the following lines:

1. Action by least developed countries

(a) Promote and respect all internationally recognized human rights, including the right to development;

(b) Continue efforts to establish or strengthen, as appropriate, an effective, fair and stable institutional, legal and regulatory framework in order to strengthen the rule of law;

(c) Consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority and implement anti-corruption laws and regulations consistent with the Convention;

(d) Continue reforming the public sector to increase the efficiency and transparency of service delivery and improve its human and institutional capacity, including statistical capacity;

(e) Implement greater transparency in public financial management, including public disclosure of revenues, budgets, expenditures, procurement and audits and improving parliamentary oversight of public financial management;

(f) Promote effective participation of all stakeholders and government accountability at all levels by strengthening the roles of parliament, civil society, the independent media, political parties and other democratic institutions and processes, as appropriate, including in relation to the preparation, the implementation and the monitoring of national development policies and plans, while ensuring that all stakeholders abide by the national legislation and adhere to the rule of law;

(g) Foster just, transparent and well-functioning government accountable to the people and promote an accessible and independent judicial system;

(h) Promote coherence across economic, social and environmental policies, and also promote the coherent use of resources to ensure an environment conducive to sustainable development;

(i) Promote accountability of all development actors that receive funds for development activities through a mechanism of public disclosure of their funding sources as well as financial auditing;

(j) Strengthen efforts to fight corruption, bribery and money-laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by strengthening anti-corruption laws and regulations and their effective application;

(k) Integrate conflict prevention and resolution through peaceful means, peacebuilding and nation building, as well as national reconciliation strategies, into national development plans, as appropriate;

(l) Promote policies and intensify efforts to achieve equal participation of women and men at all levels in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, reconciliation and peacebuilding processes;

(m) Pursue broad-based and inclusive socio-economic development policies and programmes with a special focus on eradicating poverty and hunger and generating productive employment and decent work for all, in particular women and youth.

2. Action by development partners

(a) Support least developed countries' efforts to develop their human and institutional capacities for good governance;

(b) Support least developed countries to strengthen national statistical capacity to design programmes and policies for sustainable development and effectively monitor the implementation of this Programme of Action;

(c) Provide least developed country Governments with timely information in a transparent manner on annual commitments and disbursements, to enable accurate budgeting, accounting and auditing in least developed countries;

(d) Promote policy coherence and coordination of international financial, trade and development institutions, processes and mechanisms, taking into account the diversified and special development needs and challenges of least developed countries;

(e) Provide continued support for strengthened and effective voice and participation of least developed countries in international dialogue and action on development, as well as in decision- and rule-making and standard- and norm-setting in all areas affecting their development, and in relevant international forums;

(f) Consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority and implement anti-corruption laws and regulations consistent with the Convention;

(g) Support the efforts of least developed countries to strengthen institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for preventing corruption, bribery and money-laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by both public and private entities;

(h) Provide appropriate assistance at the request of the recipient least developed country, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to help prevention and resolution, through peaceful means, including mediation, of conflict, and support confidence-building, post-conflict peacebuilding, reintegration, reconstruction and rehabilitation;

(i) Strengthen support for least developed countries affected by conflict to address country-specific needs and situations, including broad-based, inclusive and rapid socio-economic development with a special focus on rebuilding national institutions and capacity, rebuilding critical infrastructure and generating productive employment and decent work for all;

(j) Harmonize and align assistance with national priorities of least developed countries affected by conflict.

V. The complementary role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of this Programme of Action

131. South-South cooperation has an important role in least developed countries' development, through its contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in areas such as human and productive capacity-building, technical assistance and exchange of best practices, particularly on issues relating to health, education, professional training, agriculture, environment, science and technology, trade and investment. Such cooperation, including, inter alia, triangular approaches, should be supported by the international community.

132. South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

133. South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity, and guided by, inter alia, the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free from any conditionalities. South-South cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance. It is a partnership among equals based on solidarity. In that regard, we acknowledge the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities. The impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner.

134. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

135. Efforts made by multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and development institutions to increase financial resources to promote South-South cooperation, where appropriate, for the least developed countries are welcomed.

136. The potential of South-South cooperation for least developed countries should be realized in accordance with its principles to attain the objectives of supporting national and regional development efforts, strengthening institutional and technical capacities and improving the exchange of experience and know-how among developing countries.

137. Achievements made by developing countries towards promoting South-South cooperation initiatives, including for least developed countries, are recognized and they are invited to continue to intensify their efforts.

138. The contribution of South-South cooperation to the Istanbul Programme of Action should be recognized, including by promoting initiatives that are beneficial to least developed countries, taking into account, among other things, economic complementarities among developing countries.

139. Promotion of least developed countries' access to and transfer of technology through South-South cooperation should be emphasized. Further efforts should be made by developing countries in improving technology cooperation arrangements with least developed countries, such as the Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the South. It is also important to promote, through South-South cooperation, broader technological developments such as technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development.

140. South-South cooperation is being implemented through various initiatives in the social (particularly health and education), economic, environmental, technical and political fields.⁹

VI. Graduation and smooth transition

141. Smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status is vital to ensure that these countries are eased onto a sustainable development path without any disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects. The measures and benefits associated with the least developed country membership status need to be phased out consistent with their smooth transition strategy, taking into account each country's particular development situation.

142. It is crucial for graduating countries to take the lead in the development of smooth transition strategies with the support of their development and trading partners. Development and trading partners, including the United Nations system, should continue to support the implementation of the transition strategy and avoid

⁹ For example, Cuba's "Miracle Operation" and "Yes, I Can Do It" initiatives; the programmes of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa; the programmes of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States, European Islamic Countries and Newly Independent Countries; the Horizontal Cooperation Programme of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile; the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme; India's Pan-African e-Network Project; the Bank of the South; the Bank of ALBA; the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation; the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme; the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement; Proyecto Mesoamérica; the Mexico-Chile Joint Cooperation Fund; the initiative "Oil and Gas Development: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned within the Framework of South-South Cooperation"; Qatar's South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance; Brazil's Strategic Programme in the Areas of Food Security and Agriculture with Haiti; the Brazil-International Labour Organization triangular programme to fight child labour; the initiative of the United Arab Emirates in the field of renewable and alternative energy and clean technology; the Uruguayan Fund for International Cooperation; the Mexico-Uruguay Joint Cooperation Fund; Nigeria's South-South Health Care Delivery Programme; the Nigeria Trust Fund; the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps scheme; the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership; the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation; the Africa-India Partnership; the Africa-South America Summit; the New Partnership for Africa's Development; the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation; the Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation; the Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation; the Kenya-Africa-Japan Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education project; the Regional Cooperation Meeting of the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; and the Brazil-Japan agricultural development project in Mozambique.

any abrupt reductions in financial and technical assistance and should consider extending trade preferences to the graduated country, on a bilateral basis.

143. The General Assembly is invited to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process, within existing resources.

144. The United Nations should make concrete efforts in the implementation of smooth transition measures by extending to a graduated country, *inter alia*, within existing resources, the existing travel-related benefits to delegates for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country.

VII. Implementation, follow-up and monitoring

145. Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels are crucial for the successful implementation of this Programme of Action. National, regional and global mechanisms should be mutually complementary and reinforcing. Necessary steps will be taken to ensure mutual accountability of least developed countries and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under this Programme of Action.

146. National-level arrangements are particularly important, as the Programme of Action is owned and led by the least developed countries. At the national level, each least developed country Government should integrate the provisions of this Programme of Action into its national policies and development framework and conduct regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders. Existing country review mechanisms, including for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms should be broadened to cover the review of this Programme of Action and extended to all least developed countries.

147. The United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, and other multilateral institutions, are encouraged to continue to collaborate with and provide support to national follow-up and monitoring.

148. Development partners should support agreed objectives and policies designed by least developed countries on the basis of the Programme of Action that are integrated into existing national development and cooperation frameworks. They should monitor the delivery of their commitments and consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any.

149. At the regional level, the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of this Programme of Action in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations. The relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should continue to ensure that the needs and challenges of the least developed countries are addressed as part of their ongoing work.

150. At the global level, the implementation and monitoring mechanisms established after the Brussels Programme of Action should be strengthened and

improved for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly should continue to monitor the implementation of this Programme of Action on an annual basis under the specific item on its agenda.

151. The Economic and Social Council is invited to continue to include periodically an agenda item during its annual substantive session on the review and coordination of the implementation of this Programme of Action. Periodic reviews of progress made and constraints confronted by least developed countries should be conducted by the Economic and Social Council to allow for focused interactions. The Economic and Social Council is invited to include the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in its annual ministerial reviews, as required. The Development Cooperation Forum should keep reviewing trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, including for least developed countries.

152. Consideration of each annual review in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should include, *inter alia*, (a) follow-up, monitoring and assessment of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels through reporting by Governments, as well as by the secretariats and intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system and of other relevant subregional, regional and international organizations and institutions; (b) fostering international cooperation in support of the Programme of Action, including coordination among donors and among organizations referred to above; and (c) elaborating new policies and measures in the light of changing domestic and external circumstances facing least developed countries.

153. The governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international financial institutions, are invited to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates. These organizations are invited to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

154. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The coordination mechanisms available, such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group, should be broadly utilized and the inter-agency consultative group should be kept active in this regard.

155. 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 for the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the 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 Programme of Action for the least developed countries at the country, regional and global levels, and to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action for least developed countries. To this end, it should continue its awareness-

raising and advocacy works in favour of least developed countries in partnership with the relevant part of the United Nations, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and to provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries. With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of OHRLLS and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries, the Secretary-General is requested to prepare a report, in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and to submit it with recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

156. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should continue to address the challenges faced by least developed countries through conducting intergovernmental consensus-building, especially in the Trade and Development Board, and to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action also through its technical assistance to least developed countries. UNCTAD's institutional capacity in the research and analysis of least developed country issues should be maintained to this end.

157. The United Nations General Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of this Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action.

Chapter III

Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Turkey*

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Having met in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, at the invitation of the Government of Turkey,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to His Excellency Abdullah Gül, the President of Turkey, for his outstanding contribution, as President of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to the successful outcome of the Conference;

2. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government of Turkey for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Turkey and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal;

3. *Requests* the Government of Turkey to convey to the city of Istanbul and to the people of Turkey the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

* Adopted at the closing plenary meeting, on 13 May 2011; for the discussion, see chap. IV, sect. M, para. 124.

Chapter IV

Organizational and procedural matters

A. Election of the President

(Agenda item 2)

1. The 1st plenary meeting of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was called to order on Monday, 9 May 2011, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as temporary President of the Conference.
2. The Conference elected by acclamation as its President Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey.
3. The Conference was informed that, during the absence of the President, his responsibilities would be assumed by Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

B. Opening of the Conference

(Agenda item 1)

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May, statements were made by Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, President of the Conference; Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Joseph Deiss, President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly; Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin; José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission; Jhala Nath Khanal, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries; Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director of the World Bank.
5. Statements were also made by Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, First Lady of the State of Qatar; Anders Johnsson, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Muhtar Kent, Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Coca-Cola Company; James Wolfensohn, Co-Chair of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Conference; and Arjun Karki, Global Coordinator of the Civil Society Steering Committee for the Conference.
6. Statements were also made by Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; and Joan Clos, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

C. Adoption of the rules of procedure

(Agenda item 3)

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May, the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure the provisional rules of procedure, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.219/2).

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary organs

(Agenda item 4)

8. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda contained in document A/CONF.219/1. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary organs.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of the draft outcome documents of the Conference.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

9. The Conference also adopted the organizational arrangements as set out in document A/CONF.219/1/Add.1.

10. The Conference established a Committee of the Whole to consider agenda items 8 and 9 and in doing so to elaborate a programme of action for the decade 2011-2020 on the basis of the draft prepared by the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.219/4).

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 5)

11. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May, the Conference elected the following officers:

Vice-Presidents:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chile, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malawi, Nepal, Slovenia and the Sudan

Chair, Committee of the Whole:

Jarmo Viinanen (Finland)

Rapporteur:

Jean-François Régis Zinsou (Benin)

12. At the same meeting, the Conference was informed that, in accordance with a decision taken on organizational arrangements contained in document A/CONF.219/1/Add.1, those State members of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries who had not been nominated as Vice-Presidents by their respective regional groups were elected to the Bureau of the Conference as ex officio members.

F. Credentials of representatives participating in the Conference

(Agenda item 6)

Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

13. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 9 May, the Conference decided to appoint the following countries as members of the Credentials Committee: Bahamas, China, Finland, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Russian Federation, Singapore and United States of America.

Report of the Credentials Committee

14. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2011, the Conference approved the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.219/5), thereby accepting the credentials of the representatives to the Conference.

G. Special and side events

15. Forty-five special events (for a full list of events, see annex V) were organized by Member States, United Nations agencies and other related organizations covering a wide range of subjects of priority interest to least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action (for a full list of events, see annex V). Attended by high-level officials, including Heads of States and Governments, heads of agencies, ministers, ambassadors, other senior government officials, renowned experts, chief executive officers and civil society representatives, those events not only served as discussion forums, but also as venues to announce concrete deliverables aimed at supporting least developed countries in achieving their development goals, including those identified in the recently adopted Programme of Action.

16. The deliverables range from targeted financial pledges and measures to promote investments to concrete technical cooperation and capacity-building proposals in the areas of education and training and skills development, as well as institutional capacity-building, technology transfer, strengthening of research capacity, knowledge transfer, and the establishment of research and technology institutes. In addition, sectoral commitments were made, including programmes and projects in the areas of agriculture and food security, trade and productive capacities, human and social development, and climate change. Further projects were launched to help improve data collection and statistical capacity, to provide

public information tools and to ensure the monitoring of progress of the Istanbul Programme of Action.¹⁰

17. The largest number of concrete deliverables was announced in the area of technical cooperation and capacity-building. Announcements were made relating to the provision of numerous scholarships for students and fellowships for researchers from least developed countries, as well as technical trainings for civil servants and negotiators, including women leaders and government officials. On the institutional level, capacity-building programmes will be initiated to improve public administration, governance and transparency. More specifically, programmes and projects were announced in the following areas: investment promotion, tax collection and capital market regulation, social protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and strengthening of micro, small and medium-size enterprises and the private sector, among others.

18. To strengthen least developed countries' research capacity, and to ensure their access to technology and knowledge, a number of technology transfer schemes and research centres were launched. Among other initiatives, the Government of Turkey announced the establishment of an international science, technology and innovation centre dedicated to least developed countries, which will also serve as a "technology bank" to help them access and utilize critical technologies.

19. Financial pledges were made to support the implementation of the Programme of Action and to ensure effective follow-up. Development partners and United Nations agencies also announced the replenishment of a number of least developed country trust funds and the establishment of new funds, including in the area of sustainable tourism, reforestation and climate change adaptation programmes, and information and communications technologies (ICT) development in least developed countries.

20. To promote investments in least developed countries, development partners promised to encourage the private sector to increase foreign direct investment targeting least developed country economies. To this end, an "aid for investment" initiative and new financing instruments were proposed, the latter targeting public-private partnerships for infrastructure investment in particular.

21. In terms of the sectoral focus, a large number of initiatives were announced to support the agricultural sector and increase nutrition and food security. Commitments were made to strengthen least developed countries' emergency food reserve systems, and to increase the productivity of farmers in least developed countries by providing capacity-building and technical assistance for agricultural production, mechanization, aquaculture food processing, mechanization and standardization. In addition, a support programme was launched aimed at enhancing their integration into global agricultural and agri-business value and supply chains.

22. In the area of trade and productive capacities, technical assistance and capacity-building measures will target improved trade policies and export capacities complemented by a renewed commitment to improved market access for least developed country products. Initiatives were also announced to enhance human and social development and support mitigation and adaptation efforts of least developed

¹⁰ A detailed list of deliverables will be made available on the Conference website, at: www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home.

countries with regard to climate change. This will include the facilitation of the transition to a low-carbon growth path through investments in clean technologies and targeted support for small island least developed countries. Tailored research and knowledge products for capacity-building and transfer of knowledge on trade policies and regulatory options to improve returns to investment in aid for trade for the least developed countries is also envisaged.

23. With respect to monitoring the progress of the implementation, and the follow-up and review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, a visualization tool called the LDC Mapper and a project to engage parliamentarians more actively were announced. To strengthen least developed countries' information and statistical tools, least developed countries will have access to an online information portal that will provide information on existing least developed country-specific international support measures. In addition, national databases on various subjects will be launched, including on traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore, and climate change and adaptation activities.

24. The following six high-level interactive thematic debates were organized as part of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: (i) Enhancing productive capacities and the role of the private sector in least developed countries; (ii) Resource mobilization for least developed countries' development and global partnership; (iii) Harnessing trade for least developed countries' development and transformation; (iv) Good governance at all levels; (v) Reducing vulnerabilities, responding to emerging challenges, and enhancing food security in the least developed countries; and (vi) Human and social development, gender equality and empowerment of women.

25. The aim of the high-level interactive thematic debates was to bring together Heads of States and Governments, key ministers and senior officials, heads of United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, eminent development personalities, chief executive officers and heads of private sector and civil society umbrella organizations in a multi-stakeholder discussion on the above-mentioned themes, which are crucial in shaping the least developed countries' development strategy in the next decade.

26. The interactive thematic debates were seen as consensus-building forums to renew and reinvigorate partnerships and mobilize additional international support measures and actions in favour of poverty reduction, sustained economic growth and sustainable and inclusive development in least developed countries.

27. The interactive thematic debates were conducted by high-level officials who comprised Heads of States, prime ministers, vice-presidents, ministers, eminent personalities, heads of United Nations agencies, and representatives of the business community and civil society.

28. The six debates were attended by more than 1,500 accredited participants, including Heads of States and Government, parliamentarians, ministers, high-level officials from least developed countries and development partners, heads of United Nations agencies and other international organizations, and representatives of the business community and civil society. During the debates, participants discussed progress and ongoing challenges facing least developed countries in advancing their development agenda, in particular in the context of the recent global economic and

financial crisis, food and fuel crisis, and the negative impact of climate change on least developed countries' economies.

29. The main findings of the discussions in the six thematic debates are summarized below. Speakers and panellists are listed in annex II.

Enhancing productive capacities and the role of the private sector in least developed countries

30. Despite their accelerated growth in the last decade, least developed countries have largely failed to achieve structural transformation or enhance their productive capacities. The manufacturing sector remains underdeveloped, particularly in African least developed countries, and many of them are still dependent on the export of unprocessed commodities. For this reason, they are vulnerable to economic shocks, such as commodity price fluctuations, and are directly and strongly affected by the vagaries of the global economy. Moreover, primary sector activities typically do not create employment on a sufficient level. This is pertinent particularly in Africa, where population growth will add another 400 million people to the labour force in the coming decades. There is thus no alternative for least developed countries than to turn to more labour-intensive manufacturing, and achieve a structural transformation of their economies. Insufficient employment creation was also identified as responsible for persistent poverty. Poverty reduction has not kept up with growth rates, and economic growth has not always translated into social progress.

31. Among recommendations, participants highlighted the need to strengthen the private sector in least developed countries by improving the business climate, facilitating their effective integration into global markets, and adopting green technologies. Development partners should contribute to the success of this agenda by ensuring that their development assistance and their trade and macroeconomic policies are supportive of the structural transformation of least developed countries. They could help to breach the financing gap for major investments in infrastructure, in particular in energy and information and communications technologies. Development assistance and public investments by least developed countries could be leveraged through the increased use of public-private partnerships.

Resource mobilization for least developed countries' development and global partnership

32. Adequate resources are needed to underpin efforts to help least developed countries escape the poverty trap and graduate from the least developed country status. The accumulation and mobilization of adequate financial resources, both foreign and domestic, and their effective allocation to productive sectors are key to successful poverty eradication and graduation. Key objectives and targets for the decade 2011-2020 include domestic resource mobilization; enhancing the quantity and quality of ODA and addressing debt problems of least developed countries; enhancing foreign direct investments; increasing the flow of workers' remittances and its productive use; tapping innovative sources of finance for least developed countries and promoting South-South cooperation.

33. With regard to ODA, agreed commitments by development partners need to be fulfilled by providing long-term concessional aid in a predictable fashion, and also

identify new and innovative financing mechanisms to address development challenges that least developed countries are facing.

34. On domestic resource mobilization, greater national efforts to mobilize domestic financial resources in least developed countries, particularly taxes, have to be undertaken to have additional resources to underwrite development expenditures. Policy reforms in fiscal and monetary policies are needed. The private sector needs to play an important role in the transformation of least developed countries, including attracting responsible foreign direct investment, in particular in sectors that least developed countries deem of high priority. Least developed countries should strive to attract foreign direct investment that would best contribute to the development of their productive capacities.

35. Regional integration and South-South cooperation can also play an important role, taking into account that most of the problems facing least developed countries are shared by neighbouring countries and that regional cooperation is essential for effective solutions. Finally, innovative forms of financing need to be further explored.

Harnessing trade for least developed countries' development and transformation

36. Participants discussed progress and ongoing challenges facing least developed countries in advancing their trade agenda, especially within the framework of the multilateral trading system. The discussions centred on the Doha Development Round negotiations and the initiatives currently in place to address supply-side constraints, including the Aid for Trade Initiative and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The need to adopt a Services waiver at the World Trade Organization that would allow for more preferential and favourable treatment of services and service providers from least developed countries was also discussed.

37. The discussions centred around unilateral trade preference schemes, regional trading arrangements, the need for an expeditious, specific and ambitious outcome on the cotton issue regarding subsidies, accession of least developed countries to the World Trade Organization, and South-South cooperation as a means to strengthen and expand least developed countries' capacity to trade. The debate also took stock of the developments in the World Trade Organization negotiations that address the effective participation of least developed countries in the multilateral trading system. In particular it was concluded that the following issues remained unresolved: duty-free quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries, preferential rules of origin, subsidies for agricultural products, accession requirements, aid for trade, and impact of cutting tariffs.

Good governance at all levels

38. There is a need for improved governance not just at the national level, but also at the international level. Partner countries stressing the importance of good governance must also be seen to be practicing it. Sometimes donors frustrate efforts at the national level. For example, investigations on anti-corruption with regard to big international companies have sometimes led to diminishing aid from countries where those companies are based, hence sending the signal that transparency is expected of local officials but should not apply to multinationals.

39. It was highlighted that good governance was part of development effectiveness. Multilateral organizations such as the World Bank are working to maximize transparency through a freedom of information policy, which grants to the public access to most information. The Bank is also working to increase accountability and oversight of its operations and projects, and sees the need to improve an accountability culture by empowering citizens to monitor public sector management and interventions.

40. Democratic governance can unleash the potential for development. But challenges remain such as the need to build democratic institutions at all levels, including the management of elections and providing space to civil society organizations. There is also a need to address soft issues in democracy building, such as election context, the rule of law, respect for diversity, peaceful mediation of conflicts, and acceptance of election results.

Reducing vulnerabilities, responding to emerging challenges and enhancing food security in the least developed countries

41. Ensuring food security is a matter of increasing productivity and, most important, of creating the necessary links between the farmer and the market so that products can be sold nationally and exported abroad. Access to markets and fair land distribution are therefore critical for food security. Yet subsistence agriculture remains the backbone of food security at the community level. Growth generated in agriculture, especially at the community level, is four times more effective than growth in other areas. To reach that goal, it is necessary to allocate at least 10 per cent of national budgets to agriculture. In addition, it should be considered that food security is about availability as well as accessibility.

42. To be able to face current and future challenges, it is necessary to increase the physical, human and institutional infrastructure; increase agricultural productivity and expand the export capacity of communities and countries; mainstream climate change and land degradation issues into national budgets; involve non-traditional donors, in particular civil society organizations and the private sector, in poverty reduction strategies; promote regional integration, especially as far as the creation of the price mitigation mechanism is concerned; and strengthen the capacity of the State to respond to social demands. The establishment of social safety nets and the adoption of a human rights approach to development and food security need to be incorporated into national and international strategies.

Human and social development, gender equality and empowerment of women

43. Major progress has been made in recent years with respect to human and social development. Primary education for all has helped least developed countries towards achieving parity for children going to primary school. Legislation is one thing, but implementation is another. The economic situation in most least developed countries impedes their ability to do more.

44. To promote gender equality, Governments have to engage women from all walks of life, introduce egalitarian laws and good social mechanisms. However, it is critical to implement such laws and get society to embrace them. Education and employment are two areas that are critical to women's empowerment.

45. With a view to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals, it was stated that the fight against AIDS and other diseases should be better integrated into the greater development agenda.

H. Parliamentarian Forum

46. The Parliamentarian Forum took place on 8 May, and brought together some 160 Members of Parliament from 55 countries, including several Speakers of Parliament. It was convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in cooperation with OHRLLS.¹¹

47. The Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Secretary-General of IPU welcomed participants along with the United Nations Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of Nepal as Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries. Their introductory remarks underscored the importance of involving parliaments in the implementation of the nascent Istanbul Programme of Action and acknowledged the progress made in the negotiation of the document, where an agreement on the role of parliaments had been reached.

Taking a hard look at the least developed countries today: progress and setbacks and their political underpinnings

48. Session I.1 was opened by Fazilet Çiğlik, Member of Parliament (Turkey), Cheick Sidi Diarra, Secretary-General of the Conference, and Kim Yeat Chhit, Senator (Cambodia). Luis Fraga, Senator (Spain), served as moderator. Statements were made by the delegations of Mali, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and the European Parliament. Participants considered least developed countries today, their progress and setbacks over the past decade under the Brussels Programme of Action and their political underpinnings. Several conclusions were drawn, which are summarized below.

49. An analysis of national reports, regional reviews and proceedings of the pre-conference thematic events showed that the least developed countries had made significant progress in many areas, particularly in economic growth, increases in capital formation, reduction of interest rates and narrowing fiscal deficits, and progress in the realization of some Millennium Development Goals.

50. Despite those advances, half of the population of 880 million in the least developed countries are living in extreme poverty, productive capacities remain weak, institutional capacities are lacking and the number of unemployed continues to rise, particularly among the youth. The usual challenges faced by least developed countries are further aggravated by the numerous global challenges, such as the economic and financial crisis and rising food and fuel prices. Consequently, the least developed countries are becoming more susceptible to external shocks and are being further marginalized from the global economy.

¹¹ More information about the deliberations at the Parliamentarian Forum is available at: www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home.

51. Some of the major lessons learned include the need for least developed countries to be committed and proactive in their own development. The Istanbul Programme of Action must be fully integrated into national development plans to ensure national ownership and therefore its effectiveness. Increased resources and capacity are required to ensure implementation of the Programme of Action. There is a need for greater accountability by all partners, both globally and nationally, with least developed countries taking full ownership by leading with examples of good governance as well as improved South-South cooperation.

52. Good governance is a necessary condition for development. Parliaments, as pillars of good governance, have a crucial role to play in all aspects of the implementation, monitoring and review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and must be able to exercise their legislative, oversight and representative functions across the full range of development issues. Furthermore, increased participation of women in politics is a key component of better parliaments.

Overview of the Istanbul Programme of Action

53. Session I.2 was opened by Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya (Nepal) as one of the lead negotiators of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and Danny Singoma of the Network for the Promotion of Democracy and Economic and Social Rights, based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament (Austria), served as moderator. Statements were made by the delegations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives and Malawi.

54. The discussion focused on the expectations of the Istanbul Programme of Action and helped provide an overall sense of how the Programme of Action measures up to the actual needs and realities of the least developed countries at present, taking into account both progress and setbacks over the past decade. The following main points of the presentations made and the ensuing debate are summarized below.

55. The Brussels Programme of Action fell short of expectations because Governments were not fully committed. There was not enough buy-in by the Governments themselves and their development partners. In addition, the oversight role of parliaments was weak, if not missing altogether. Where graduation did occur, as in the case of Maldives, it was owing to strong bipartisan and multi-stakeholder commitment.

56. Lack of commitment explains in part why aid, debt relief and trade reforms, among other things, all fell short of the mark. Though aid increased, it did not achieve the official targets; while debt relief did take place for many countries, it still leaves the least developed countries at risk of falling back into the debt trap. Trade conditions also improved, but the overall share of global trade that is accounted for by the least developed countries remains too small.

57. For the Istanbul Programme of Action to succeed, it needs to include clear targets, indicators and timetables. The Programme of Action will need to address the underlying structural problems of the least developed countries, as well as the food security and climate change crises. It needs to be bold and address politically sensitive issues such as the problem of large land purchases by foreign agribusiness, and how these undermine local farmers and rural development. It will also need to

commit to a stronger partnership for development, including through South-South cooperation.

58. The main objective of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to bring a much more significant number of least developed countries to graduation by the end of the decade, while also providing for support to newly graduated countries so that they do not fall back into the category. Graduation can only be possible through collective efforts at both national and global levels.

59. The Istanbul Programme of Action will place more emphasis than did the Brussels Programme of Action on the need to strengthen the productive capacities of the least developed countries. However, and very appropriately, it also recognizes the need for institutional reforms and capacity-building. While it may be difficult to prioritize between those two factors, it is clear that they go hand-in-hand and must be made to work in a mutually reinforcing way.

60. The strong acknowledgement in the Istanbul Programme of Action of the role of parliaments in overseeing development plans, in strengthening governance, and in supporting the overall implementation of the new commitments for the least developed countries was greeted enthusiastically. Parliaments are finally recognized as key partners in a major global compact for the least developed countries. In developed countries in particular parliaments must push Governments to fulfil their commitments as set out in the Programme of Action.

61. Parliaments will need to help enact legislation that is in line with the Istanbul Programme of Action. To this effect, parliaments should consider forming dedicated committees or working groups to help focus attention on the Programme of Action. Similarly, they will need to strengthen their linkages to civil society in order to better represent the needs and the concerns of the people.

62. In many places, parliaments also need to be reformed so that they may become more democratic, i.e., more accountable to and representative of the people. The electorate needs to become more informed of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well, in order to place more pressure on both parliaments and Government.

63. Because least developed countries remain generally aid-dependent (though not always getting their fair share of aid), it is important that the Istanbul Programme of Action address the basic constraints that affect aid effectiveness in those countries. Parliamentary oversight of aid therefore needs to be strengthened. That said, all least developed countries should strive to become self-sufficient by developing their own resources.

How to translate commitments into action

64. Session II.1 was devoted to working group discussions (“knowledge café”) on the question of how to translate commitments into action and how to mobilize parliamentary support for the Istanbul Programme of Action. Small groups of participants were put questions relevant to parliamentary capacity and the Programme of Action and asked to discuss their experiences and ideas. The session concluded with each group presenting their suggestions, many of which focused on the need to improve the capacities of parliaments to oversee the Programme of Action. The recommendations included the following:

- Strengthen the research, monitoring and reporting capacities of parliaments regarding the Istanbul Programme of Action
- Ensure greater access to relevant information and documents concerning the Programme of Action
- Improve mechanisms for the sharing of information and coordination between the specialized parliamentary committees concerned with different aspects of the Programme of Action
- Strengthen relations with the executive branch to ensure complementarity of each other's work in the implementation of the Programme of Action
- Improve relations within parliaments to establish cross-party priorities and policies related to Programme of Action commitments
- Develop effective public consultations on relevant legislation or a policy of interest to the Programme of Action
- Improve people's understanding with regard to the real function of parliaments
- Enhance oversight capacities, including oversight of the budget and foreign aid, to allow parliamentarians to effectively monitor funding allocated to implementation of the Programme of Action
- Increase awareness by parliamentarians of the Programme of Action and their own national development problems
- Include parliamentarians in thematic working groups and multi-stakeholder bodies relevant to areas of the Programme of Action at the national level.

65. Further general comments received from the working groups referred to the importance of parliaments, with their budgetary, legislative, representative and oversight functions, as fully fledged partners at the national and global levels in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Participants also reiterated the need to create mechanisms within parliaments to oversee and monitor implementation of the Programme of Action.

66. Many least developed countries need to implement numerous international development plans and commitments. In order to effectively do so, and allow for development to take place, it is essential to ensure that international development commitments are tailored to address specific national priorities and are wholly integrated into national development plans.

Presentation of the IPU/United Nations project proposal and discussion on a parliamentary action plan

67. In session II.2 Alessandro Motter, IPU Senior Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs, Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Acting Director of OHRLLS and Executive Secretary of the Conference, and Saber Chowdhury, Member of Parliament (Bangladesh), elaborated on a joint IPU/OHRLLS project proposal and accompanying parliamentary action plan to get parliaments actively involved in the future implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The session was moderated by Phil Matsheza, Policy Adviser, UNDP Democratic Governance Group.

68. The IPU/OHRLLS project would run at first over the next five years. At the country level, the project would revolve around the creation of focal points in both

least developed country and non-least developed country parliaments to help review the parliaments' working methods and structures (committees, etc.), liaise with United Nations and government focal points on the ground, and generally assist with the mainstreaming of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the entire policy spectrum. At the global level, the project seeks to include Members of Parliament into future reviews of the Programme of Action, foster cooperation and technical assistance between parliaments, and stimulate the sharing of best practices and policy advice between parliaments.

69. The model action plan was presented to provide parliaments with overall guidance as to the activities and outcomes they ought to consider in order to carry forward the Istanbul Programme of Action. Parliaments were invited to adapt the plan to their particular needs and circumstances. It would be for the parliamentary focal points to initiate a discussion around the plan in their respective parliaments.

70. The meeting generated general support for the two proposals put forward. Comments received included:

- Parliamentary focal points ought not to act in isolation. They need to reach out to others and seek to build bridges across the political spectrum. It would be good for parliaments to appoint at least two focal points, from the majority and the opposition, respectively, and with due consideration to gender balance.
- A partnership between focal points in developed and least developed countries ought to be nurtured. Parliaments in non-least developed countries where the Istanbul Programme of Action may resonate less must also proceed to appoint focal points. In the least developed countries, focal points will need more support and resources to do their work.
- Key to the support of the focal point mechanism in each least developed country parliament will be the creation of corresponding focal points in the United Nations country offices. The United Nations Resident Coordinator should provide regular information and support in the form of capacity-building and policy advice.
- The possibility of establishing a new committee, a working group or a caucus dedicated to the Istanbul Programme of Action should be considered carefully. Alternatively, improved coordination and sharing of information relevant to the Programme of Action between existing committees may be sufficient.
- The action plan will need to be translated into national languages in order to be of immediate relevance to all parliaments. More important, it will need to include clear targets and indicators according to the specificities of each parliament.

71. The meeting was brought to a close by the IPU Secretary-General, and the President of the IPU Group of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. They both thanked participants and encouraged them to take home and share with colleagues the main messages of the meeting.

I. Civil Society Forum

72. The Civil Society Forum attracted 1,500 participants from 270 organizations representing women's movements, youth movements, trade unions, peasant federations, media and human rights defenders.

73. The official opening of the Civil Society Forum took place on 8 May 2011, at the Istanbul Congress Centre. The United Nations Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, the Prime Minister of Nepal, Ms. Antonietta Rosa Gomes, Dr. Arjun Karki of LDC Watch and Dr. Ihsan Karaman of Doctors Worldwide delivered remarks at the opening.

74. Regular meetings were convened from 7 to 13 May, which provided an opportunity for dialogue between Member States' negotiators and the participants of the Civil Society Forum.

75. The prime message delivered from civil society is that the development paradigm must be changed. Civil society organizations stressed the need to move away from market-driven policies and further implement people-centred development policies that require Governments to ensure sustainable livelihoods and uphold human rights and gender equality. Global civil society has demanded preferential treatment for least developed countries to ensure fair trade and debt cancellation and real and substantive increases in ODA, which will guarantee effective and sustainable development in least developed countries.

76. At the conclusion of the Civil Society Forum, the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Arjun Karki of LDC Watch, and Dr. Ihsan Karaman of Doctors Worldwide made concluding remarks on the Forum. Upon concluding, a declaration was issued (see annex VI).

J. Private sector track

77. Organized by the Private Sector Steering Committee, led by the United Nations Global Compact in coordination with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, the private sector track of the Conference convened more than 500 chief executives and senior business representatives with leaders from Government, civil society and the United Nations to elevate the role of private sector investment in the sustainable development of the least developed countries. The private sector track mobilized engagement between least developed country private and public sectors with their non-least developed country counterparts.¹²

78. The members of the Private Sector Steering Committee included: African Business Roundtable, Athgo International, Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey (TUSKON), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and

¹² For more details on the outcomes of the private sector track, see the private sector track report; see also information at www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home/pid/16603.

Industry (FICCI), Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), Kankindi's Group General Trading, Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF), NEPAD Business Group, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), United States Chamber of Commerce, UNCTAD, UNDP, United Nations Global Compact Office, United Nations Office for Partnerships, OHRLLS and United States Council for International Business (USCIB).

79. The private sector track marked an important milestone for the United Nations: it was the first time that the private sector was fully integrated into the programme of a major United Nations conference, allowing for direct deliberations between the public and private sectors.

80. The private sector track addressed several key challenges and opportunities for sustainable development within the least developed countries, in particular good governance, peace and stability, productive capacity and entrepreneurship, access to finance and markets, climate change and infrastructure. Many of the private sector track events explored sustainable development through the prism of key economic sectors in the least developed countries, such as agriculture, tourism, telecommunications, energy services, water and extractives.

81. Throughout these events, the business and investment opportunities explored within the least developed countries included those relevant for both multinational enterprises looking to support least developed country development and for domestic least developed country businesses seeking growth and development. The private sector track provided important opportunities to identify concrete, action-oriented proposals to address least developed country-specific challenges through sustainable private sector solutions. The private sector track was built around three interlocking components: (1) the Global Business Partnership Forum; (2) the High-Level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships; and (3) the Trade Fair.

82. **Global Business Partnership Forum (9-12 May 2011):** A four-day multi-stakeholder, working-level platform for dialogue among business, investors, Government officials and other stakeholders. Throughout over 35 workshops and plenary sessions, participants explored and identified challenges and opportunities facing least developed country economies. A variety of tangible solutions were subsequently identified for scaling up private sector investment and creating conditions for domestic businesses to develop in a sustainable manner within the least developed countries. New commitments and initiatives emerging from the Forum addressed a variety of areas, including broadband and digital development, supporting stock exchanges in the least developed countries, sustainable tourism and creating least developed country investment guidance.

83. Led by the United Nations Global Compact and the International Chamber of Commerce, nearly 40 partners collaborated to plan the Forum's workshops, round tables and plenary sessions. Event organizers included African Business Roundtable, Athgo International, Bertelsmann Foundation, Broadband Commission for Digital Development, Farming First, Global Partnership Forum, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), ITC, Istanbul Stock Exchange, Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), TOBB, Turkish Industry and Business Association (TUSIAD), TUSKON, UN-Women, United States Chamber of Commerce, UNCTAD,

Under-secretariat of the Treasury of Turkey, UNDP, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development and World Bank.

84. The Forum spurred recommendations to Governments and new actions, launched new initiatives and publications, and produced new commitments. As a result of the private sector track, a private sector statement was issued (see annex VII). The statement offers a series of recommendations to Governments to promote opportunity, growth and development in the least developed countries. The private sector is poised to build on the strong economic growth in many least developed countries over the past few years and is convinced that substantial private investment will flow to the countries that can establish conducive business environments and a level playing field. The private sector statement offers recommendations to support entrepreneurship and private enterprise; promote domestic markets; invest in infrastructure, connectivity and workforce development; encourage foreign investment; increase international trade; and engage in partnerships.

85. During the Forum, a substantial number of actions and new initiatives were announced. These included support for stock exchanges and business organizations in least developed countries, as well as initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity, rural electrification, inclusive tourism, gender sensitive social protection floors, broadband and digital development. The initiatives involve private sector organizations, South-South cooperation, various United Nations agencies and public-private collaboration. An exhaustive list of announcements and related deliverables will be published in a separate private sector track report.

86. Furthermore a number of publications were launched, including:

- The new report *Partners in Development: How Donors Can Better Engage the Private Sector in Development of the LDCs*, which takes stock of existing donor programmes aimed at engaging the private sector in development activities, identifies shortcomings and promising approaches, and offers recommendations on how donor programmes can attract more public-private collaborations in the least developed countries.
- Investment guides, which highlight the opportunities and challenges in four least developed countries: Benin, Comoros, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Zambia.
- Led by the World Trade Organization and supported by ITC, an initiative was launched to develop a toolkit to disseminate information on sustainable tourism. The toolkit will include resources that clarify local market requirements and outline local community considerations, as well as guidance for managing tourism after a crisis.
- A white paper reviewing the development of least developed country stock exchanges was released, detailing, from the investor perspective, the challenges that least developed country stock exchanges currently face.

87. **High-Level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships (9 May 2011):** Hosted by the Prime Minister of Turkey, this high-level luncheon convened Heads of State and Government, chief executives and other top leaders. The event provided the opportunity for the private sector to engage in dialogue with high-level government

officials from around the world. The Prime Minister of Turkey announced a comprehensive economic and technical cooperation package for the least developed countries for the next decade, including concessional lending facilities in infrastructure and productive capacity-building to boost investment and technology transfer programmes, including the establishment of an International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre and an International Agricultural Centre, as well as scholarships, training activities, and sharing of best practices in various areas.

88. Speaking at the High-Level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships, the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Coca-Cola Company stated that the company would invest \$2 billion in the world's poorest nations over the next 10 years. In addition, The Coca-Cola Company aimed to empower over 5 million women entrepreneurs across the value chain through training, mentoring and other programmes.

89. **Trade Fair (9-13 May 2011):** Showcasing export and other commercial opportunities available in the least developed countries, the Trade Fair provided unique opportunities for business-to-business transactions and dialogue. Organized by TUSKON in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact Office, the Trade Fair featured over 160 private sector exhibitors, including 23 from the least developed countries — companies from all least developed countries had been invited. Least developed country representatives showcased goods and services produced locally. With the aim of establishing investment and collaborative opportunities, least developed country business representatives participated in match-making exercises with non-least developed country private sector participants.

90. Observations and informal reports made during the course of the Trade Fair indicated that a number of transactions and collaborations were in the making. These included import and export opportunities for some least developed country products. In addition, companies from non-least developed country countries expressed interest in entering markets in some least developed countries (e.g., machinery, materials, construction and tourism).

91. The following least developed countries were represented during the course of the Trade Fair: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Zambia.

K. General debate

(Agenda item 7)

92. In the course of the general debate, statements were made by 121 Member States, 13 United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and 8 intergovernmental organizations.

93. All speakers expressed thanks and appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting the Conference and for extending a warm welcome and hospitality to delegations. They noted that the Conference was necessary and timely, particularly given the long-standing and new and emerging challenges the least developed countries are facing. In their statements, delegates reviewed the progress made in

the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, identified challenges encountered, and put forward ideas and proposals to address those challenges.

Appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action

94. Many delegations assessed the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for least developed countries over the past decade by giving specific examples of its role in national development plans and strategies and by sharing best practices and lessons learned. Delegations reiterated that the ultimate goal of the Brussels Programme of Action was to improve the well-being of citizens of least developed countries. Many speakers also asserted that the Brussels Programme of Action was largely focused on targets related to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and vital social inclusion and social protection objectives. Least developed country delegations expressed gratitude for international support received from development partners and others, and stated that that assistance, in combination and complementarity with national efforts, had helped least developed countries make some important progress towards achieving internationally agreed objectives, particularly in areas related to the empowerment of women, primary education and health.

95. Other delegations asserted that the Brussels Programme of Action had aimed at assisting least developed countries, among other things, to diversify their economies away from extractive sectors, secure greater market access, improve and expand their infrastructure, and strengthen governance, thereby reducing the marginalization of least developed countries.

96. Many speakers acknowledged that there was important progress made through the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. They stated that progress on developing the core institutional infrastructure of governance — development of new constitutions and national and local institutions, particularly inclusive national parliaments, to enable increased participation, the rule of law, the protection of human rights, and a transparent rules-based governance system — is a well-placed priority, especially for countries emerging from or still challenged by violent conflict. Other delegations stated that failure to achieve broad-based, socially inclusive growth threatened social stability and would put at risk the hard-won gains in governance for those emerging from conflict.

97. A number of speakers underscored the relatively supportive international environment that had prevailed up to the recent financial and economic crisis. These supportive measures included the steady rise in ODA, foreign direct investment, and remittance flows to least developed countries and the implementation of major debt-relief initiatives and preferential trade agreements, as well as unilateral trade liberalization that favoured many least developed countries. Several speakers declared that they found great value in aid for trade as a means to enable least developed countries to take greater advantage of existing market access opportunities, and to improve terms and conditions of international business collaboration. Delegations stated that such a supportive international environment combined with continued policy and institutional reforms in least developed countries had contributed to higher economic growth.

98. Several speakers noted that the gap between least developed countries and the rest of the world, including other developing countries, continues to widen. The observation was made that the least developed countries, with nearly one sixth of

the world population, accounted for only 1 per cent of global economic output. Many speakers noted that the least developed countries remain marginalized in world trade despite a significant increase in their share of world trade during the last decade.

99. These shortcomings were attributed to a variety of factors, including unfulfilled commitments on the part of least developed countries and their development partners, inadequate financial resources, particularly when set against the broad ambitions of the Brussels Programme of Action, and the limited human and institutional capacity in the least developed countries. Another shortcoming was that the Brussels Programme of Action itself had, in a number of cases, not been effectively integrated into national development plans and strategies of least developed countries, partly owing to prevailing civil conflicts and political instability in several least developed countries.

100. Many speakers noted that the bulk of foreign direct investment had been concentrated in extractive industries and commodities, which were sectors with few links to the rest of the domestic economy with little space for job creation and high exposure to external shocks. What was required, speakers concurred, was more targeted initiatives by both least developed countries and their international commercial partners and other stakeholders to implement measures that would overcome institutional gaps and create appropriate incentives for more effective international collaboration to exploit investment opportunities, capitalize on unexploited trade opportunities, and assure more efficient and business-enabling knowledge sharing, especially best practices and other types of know-how, including the transfer of appropriate technologies.

101. Speakers also called attention to the special importance of developing additional and supplementary initiatives, both public and private, to increase the absorptive capacities of the least developed countries for effective collaboration in science, technology, and innovation. It was noted that such support mechanisms, constructed in partnership with international existing institutions, are indispensable to enabling least developed countries to participate beneficially in international production chains and to develop an autonomous capacity for technical improvement.

102. Many delegations attributed the failure of the Brussels Programme of Action to meet its high expectations to a lack of adequate financing for the broad agenda mandated by the agenda and asserted that financial support by all stakeholders for the Istanbul Programme of Action must be increased.

103. Some delegations indicated that, despite progress in granting favourable market access through preferential trade regimes to least developed countries, the objective of providing duty-free quota-market access to all least developed countries had yet to be met by developing partners. In addition, many delegations expressed the view that the persistence of restrictive rules of origin and non-tariff trade barriers, such as standards and technical measures, as well as severe supply constraints and a trade-related infrastructure deficit, had prevented least developed countries from fully harnessing the gains associated with greater market access.

Lessons learned

104. Delegations broadly agreed that limited human and institutional capacity in the least developed countries is a primary constraint on their ability to utilize

international assistance, including preferential trade arrangements, and called for strengthened attention to capacity-building along the lines of the Aid for Trade initiatives. Delegations concurred that private sector development, particularly for small and medium enterprises, especially in the rural sector, is an urgent but largely neglected priority. In this connection, speakers consistently called for strengthening private sector engagement in the Istanbul Programme of Action through new “Aid for Investment” initiatives.

105. In this vein, speakers stressed that increasing productivity in the agriculture sector had to be a top priority, but that, for it to be effective, complementary efforts needed to be simultaneously implemented. These included providing necessary physical and communications infrastructure; strengthening absorptive capacity of the farming sector for technological improvement, especially in providing the necessary support for both higher yields and new and innovative crops; reviving agricultural extension services to assure inclusive access and sustainability; and improving financial access and legal tenure rights, especially for women. Delegations underlined that these complimentary efforts were all required to enable agriculture to live up to its potential to raise incomes and access to nutrition, and also reduce national dependency on food imports and exposure to international food price volatility.

106. Many speakers stated that it would be important to increase the effectiveness and impact of aid by addressing deficiencies in the international aid “architecture”. Recommendations proposed included prioritizing least developed countries in allocations of official development assistance; implementing new and innovative sources of financing; exploring and, where possible, experimenting with new types of financial and, especially, non-financial collaboration; leveraging resources through subsidies for international private sector engagement, especially foreign direct investment, in areas of least developed country priority; strengthening least developed country capacities for commercial contracting through greater transparency in agreements and by fostering governmental, especially parliamentary, review; increasing the participation of least developed countries in governance of the aid architecture.

107. Speakers also stated that achieving greater coherence could be achieved by aligning international aid policies and the international financial institutions with the Istanbul Programme of Action, and with least developed countries-specific national frameworks. In this connection, some speakers proposed that investment agreements could be the key to accomplishing that objective, while others expressed the view that public-private partnerships could be the vehicle through which those innovative initiatives would be implemented.

108. Many speakers stressed that particular attention needed to be paid to the role of women in agriculture and in the rural economy. Investment in women was an accelerator of agricultural growth and rural employment. The view was expressed that growth in agriculture had four times the impact on poverty reduction than growth in any other sector. Indeed, many speakers agreed with the sentiment echoed in the debate that progress for women is progress for all.

Challenges and opportunities

109. Speakers drew attention to a number of factors that have emerged since the adoption of the Brussels Programme of Action that undermined the effectiveness of the Programme of Action and that will threaten the success of the Istanbul

Programme of Action unless broad, concerted action is taken by all stakeholders and the international community in particular. Among the most important are the secular rise in food prices and the resulting nutrition scarcity; extreme volatility in commodity prices during the past four years, which has had negative cumulative effects on growth and has threatened to unwind hard-earned developmental successes, not least by inducing inflation in least developed countries that were otherwise following sound macroeconomic policies; lingering effects of the international financial crisis and subsequent adjustments; and undermining debt sustainability by increasing debt levels through borrowing for budgetary support, and by lowering growth prospects for many least developed countries. Several delegations noted that strengthening the participation of least developed countries in global economic governance is essential to achieving greater attention to the special needs of the least developed countries.

110. Delegations paid particular attention to the acute and imminent risks posed by global climate change on least developed countries. Several delegations asserted that global warming is having an immediate and potentially existential impact on least developed countries, especially the small island developing States, and was making it more difficult for all least developed countries to meet the goal of attaining sustainable development while also building their resilience to economic and environmental shocks they are exposed to, given their inherent vulnerabilities. The view was expressed that the third criteria for least developed country status — structural economic vulnerability — should be revisited to more fully incorporate the exposure of least developed countries to climate change.

111. Speakers asserted that the least developed countries present a “sea of opportunity” and are collectively the next major “emerging market”. It was further observed that assistance and support to least developed countries should not be viewed as charity, but as investment that can be a key driver of growth in the world as well as in the least developed countries themselves.

112. Many speakers took note of the growing importance of South-South cooperation between least developed countries and other developing countries, and some noted the growing importance of South-South trade. Delegations concurred that while South-South cooperation is to be welcomed, it is a complement, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Many delegations called upon emerging countries to pick up their “fair share” of financial assistance. On the other hand, many other delegations outlined specific forms of collaboration, including direct financial transfers without conditionalities that they had implemented in recent years. These delegations asserted that they intended to increase such commitments. Speakers stated that shared development experiences can be a powerful means of enhancing national productive and administrative capacities in least developed countries while also assuring the effectiveness of investment projects.

113. Speakers drew attention to regional cooperation as an essential and well-known but far from fully exploited mechanism. Support for the role that regional cooperation can play in improving the efficiency of investment in infrastructure and for creating more local conditions for long-term sustainable growth was also underscored. Several speakers referred to the concept of regional infrastructure corridors, one that holds considerable promise for rationalizing large-scale transportation and communications infrastructure projects.

Reaffirming the global commitment to addressing the special needs of least developed countries

114. Delegations recognized that the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action should be to enable half of the least developed countries to achieve the conditions for graduation over the next decade. An ultimate goal, expressed by many delegations, is to begin in earnest the process over the next decade of securing the extinction of the least developed country category. That was presented by delegations as an expression of all stakeholders' common responsibility to build a more inclusive, sustainable, equitable and just global society.

115. All delegations spoke in favour of a renewed and enhanced partnership for development to assist least developed countries in overcoming the impediments to self-sustaining development. Many called for the Conference to become a "watershed event" that would prove to have finally enabled a large number of least developed countries to achieve the conditions for graduation in the next decade. Delegations asserted that support for the poorest and most vulnerable countries was a moral obligation of the international community. It was also observed that such support was in the enlightened self-interest of all as the eradication of poverty would help to reduce conflict and control the spread of disease globally.

Additional international support measures and actions

116. Many speakers characterized the initiatives to be undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action as reflecting new priorities, and stated that the commitments should be directed to refining earlier approaches and rebalancing priorities in the light of the experience of the last 10 years. Many delegations highlighted that for the next decade the approach should not be in a business-as-usual manner. Existing institutions and support mechanisms, several speakers maintained, should be more fully exploited or adapted to new requirements that had been identified. Real and valuable innovation and improvement could come from better adapting existing international institutions and resources to the new agenda emerging in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

117. The establishment of a global centre for science, technology and innovation was proposed as a means to facilitate ongoing knowledge sharing among various stakeholders to improve productive and administrative capacities, disseminate best practices, and support commercial collaboration and investment.

118. Delegations asserted that standing commitments should be fulfilled and additional efforts should be made by various stakeholders to help least developed countries build their institutional capacities and enhance resources to withstand exogenous shocks arising from the world food, energy, and financial crises and mitigate their impact. Many delegations stated that targeted, timely and adequate support was needed in this regard.

119. Speakers underscored the need for robust and improved monitoring and evaluation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Many delegations were emphatic in their insistence that sustained engagement by all stakeholders must be maintained to assure maximum effectiveness of the new and enhanced Programme of Action.

L. Consideration of the draft outcome documents of the Conference

(Agenda item 8)

120. At its second meeting, on 11 May 2011, the Committee of the Whole approved the draft Programme of Action contained in document A/CONF.219/3, and authorized the Chair of the Committee to present the draft Programme of Action in the plenary.

121. At its third meeting, on 12 May 2011, the Committee of the Whole approved the draft Declaration as contained in A/CONF.219/L.1.

122. At the closing plenary, on 13 May 2011, acting on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 as contained in document A/CONF.219/3 (for the text, see chap. II) as orally amended.¹³

123. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the Istanbul Declaration contained in document A/CONF.219/L.1 (for the text, see chap. I).

M. Other business

(Agenda item 9)

124. At the closing plenary, on 13 May 2011, the Conference adopted by acclamation an expression of gratitude (A/CONF.219/L.3) submitted by Argentina, on behalf of G-77 and China (for the text, see chap. III).

N. Adoption of the report of the Conference

(Agenda item 10)

125. At the closing plenary, on 13 May 2011, the Conference adopted its draft report (A/CONF.219/L.2), and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report to reflect the proceedings of the closing plenary.

126. At the closing ceremony statements were made by the President of the Conference, Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey; Cheick Sidi Diarra, Secretary-General of the Conference; Upendra Yadav, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal; Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); and Jean-François Régis Zinsou (Benin), Rapporteur of the Conference.

¹³ Subsequently issued as document A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1.

Annex I**List of documents**

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Title or description</i> |
|------------------------|---|
| A/CONF.219/1 and Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| A/CONF.219/2 | Provisional rules of procedure for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| A/CONF.219/3 and Rev.1 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| A/CONF.219/4 | Report of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on its second session |
| A/CONF.219/5 | Report of the Credentials Committee |
| A/CONF.219/6 | Parliamentary message to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| A/CONF.219/7 | Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| A/CONF.219/INF/1 | Information note for participants |
| A/CONF.219/L.1 | Istanbul Declaration |
| A/CONF.219/L.2 | Draft report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| A/CONF.219/L.3 | Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Turkey |

Annex II

Keynote speakers, special invitees and panellists in the interactive thematic debates

1. Enhancing productive capacities and the role of the private sector in least developed countries

Co-Chairs

Madické Niang, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senegal

Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy and Cooperation, Finland

Keynote speakers

Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Joseph Deiss (Switzerland), President of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly

Lead discussants

Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Francis Gurry, Director-General, World Intellectual Property Organization

Juan Somavía, Director-General, International Labour Organization

Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union

Abdullah Çelik, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Asya, Turkey

Dotun Ajayi, Regional Manager, Economic Community of West African States Commission, on behalf of Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, President, African Business Round Table and Chair, New Partnership for Africa's Development Business Group

Roberto Bissio, Coordinator of the International Secretariat of Social Watch

2. Resource mobilization for least developed countries' development and global partnership

Co-Chairs

Upendra Yadav, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal

Ingrid Fiskaa, Deputy Minister of International Development, Norway

Keynote speakers

Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic, Ethiopia

Kabiné Komara, former Prime Minister, Guinea

Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, European Union

Lead discussants

Anthony Lake, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director, World Bank

Hugh Bredenkamp, Deputy Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, International Monetary Fund

Jon Lomøy, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Carola Donner-Reichle, Senior Adviser, Asian Development Bank

Ohashi Masaaki, Chair, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation

3. Harnessing trade for least developed countries' development and transformation

Co-Chairs

Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Public Services, Kingdom of Lesotho

Peter Lilley, Member of Parliament, Co-Chair of Trade Out of Poverty, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Keynote speakers

Rupiah Bwezani Banda, President, Republic of Zambia

Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Lead discussants

Pascal Lamy, Director-General, World Trade Organization

Martin Khor, Executive Director, South Centre

Martin Tofinga, President and Executive Director, Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Camille Chalmers, Leader, Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development

Abdul Khadir Kahraman, Durman International Group, Turkey

Ibrahim Turhan, Deputy Governor, Central Bank, Turkey

4. Good governance at all levels

Co-Chairs

Jean-Marie Ehouzou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Benin

Marie-Josée Jacobs, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Luxembourg

Keynote speakers

Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, and Chair, United Nations Development Group

Lead discussants

Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union

Karel de Gucht, Commissioner for Trade, European Union

Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Abdalla Hamdok, Director, Governance and Public Administration Division, Economic Commission for Africa on behalf of Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

Amir Dossal, Founder and Chair, Global Partnerships Forum

5. Reducing vulnerabilities, responding to emerging challenges and enhancing food security in least developed countries

Chair

Ahmed Naseem, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maldives

Keynote speakers

Malam Bacai Sanhá, President, Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Turkey

Louis Kasekende, Deputy Governor, Bank of Uganda, and an Eminent Person on the Group of Eminent Persons for the Least Developed Countries

Lead discussants

Anna Tibaijuka, Minister of Human Settlements, Housing and Urban Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania

Luc Gnacadja, Executive Director, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme

Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, Director, New York Liaison Office, Food and Agriculture Organization on behalf of Jacques Diouf, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Babu Mathew, Founder Member, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication

6. Human and social development, gender equality and empowerment of women

Co-Chairs

Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands

Steven Vanackere, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Institutional Reforms, Belgium

Keynote speakers

Gervais Rufyikiri, Second Vice-President, Republic of Burundi

Selma Aliye Kavaf, State Minister for Women and Family Affairs, Turkey

Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Lead discussants

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister of Women and Children's Affairs, Bangladesh

Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Population Fund

Irina Bokova, Director-General, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

William Lacy Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration

Paul De Lay, Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Patricia Francis, Executive Director, International Trade Centre

Thida Khus, Executive Director, SILAKA

Annex III

Participants in the general debate

States

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| Afghanistan | Hamid KARZAI President |
| Albania | Bamir TOPI President |
| Algeria | Abdelaziz BELKHADEM Minister of State and Special Envoy of the President |
| Angola | Ana DIAS LOURENCO Minister of Planning |
| Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) | Héctor Marcos TIMERMAN Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Australia | Bob MCMULLAN Minister Special Envoy of the Prime Minister |
| Austria | Wolfgang WALDNER State Secretary for the Minister for European and International Affairs |
| Azerbaijan | Arthur Tahir Oglu RASIZADEH Prime Minister |
| Bangladesh | Sheikh HASINA Prime Minister |
| Belgium | Yves LETERME Prime Minister |
| Bhutan | Khandu WANGCHUK Minister for Economic Affairs |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Sven ALKALAJ Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Brazil | Vera Lúcia Barrouin CRIVANO MACHADO Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs |
| Bulgaria | Nickolay MLADENOV Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Burkina Faso | Vincent ZAKANE Minister Delegate for Regional Cooperation |
| Burundi | Gervais RUFYIKIRI Second Vice-President |

States

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Cambodia | OU ORHAT Secretary of State at the Ministry of Planning |
| Cameroon | Yaouba ABDOULAYE Ministre Délégué du Ministère de l'Économie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement |
| Canada | Vincent RIGBY Chairman of Delegation |
| Central African Republic | Antoine GAMBI Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Chad | Emmanuel NADINGAR Prime Minister |
| Chile | Juan Eduardo EGUIGUREN Chairman of Delegation |
| China | FU ZIYING Deputy Minister of Commerce |
| Comoros | Ahmed Abdallah SAMBI President |
| Croatia | Gordan JANDROKOVIC Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration |
| Cuba | Jorge Quesada CONCEPCIÓN Chairman of Delegation |
| Cyprus | Frances-Galatia Lanitou WILLIAMS Director of Development Cooperation, Humanitarian Assistance and International Financial Organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Czech Republic | Vitezslav GREPL Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Adolphe MUZITO Prime Minister |
| Denmark (also on behalf of Sweden) | Ib PETERSEN State Secretary for Development Policy |
| Dominican Republic | Federico Alberto CUELLO CAMILO Chairman of Delegation |
| Egypt | Samir Yousef Ali EL SAYYAD Minister of Trade and Industry |

States

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|-------------------|--|
| Equatorial Guinea | Salomon NGUEMA OWONA Deputy Prime Minister |
| Eritrea | Osman Mohammed SALEH Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Estonia | Urmas PAET Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Ethiopia | Haile-Mariam DESALEGN Deputy Prime Minister |
| Finland | Tarja HALONEN President |
| France | Henri de RAINCOURT Minister of Cooperation |
| Gabon | Raphael NGAZOUZE Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs |
| Gambia | Aja Isatou NJIE-SAIDY Vice-President |
| Georgia | Nikoloz GILAURI Prime Minister |
| Germany | Friedel EGGELMEYER Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| Greece | Spyros KOUVELIS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Guinea | Alpha CONDE President |
| Guinea-Bissau | Malam Bacai SANHÁ President |
| Haiti | Léo MÉRORÈS Chairman of Delegation |
| Holy See | Archbishop Silvano M. TOMASI Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer |
| Hungary | Janos MARTONYI Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| India | S. M. KRISHNA Minister for External Affairs |
| Indonesia | NAHARI AGUSTINI Chairman of Delegation |

States

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| Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran) | Mahmood AHMADINEJAD President |
| Ireland | Jan O'SULLIVAN Minister of State for Trade and Development |
| Israel | Benjamin ABILEAH Chairman of Delegation |
| Italy | Elisabetta BELLONI Director-General for Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Japan | Shigeki SUMI Chairman of Delegation |
| Jordan | Nasser JUDEH Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Kenya | Richard ONYONKA Vice-Minister Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Kiribati | Reteta Rimon NIKEVATA Special Envoy of the President |
| Kuwait | Abdulla ALTHUWAIKH Chairman of Delegation Department of International Organizations |
| Kyrgyzstan | Kairnarbek TOKTOMASHEV Chairman of Delegation |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | Thongloun SISOUKITH Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Lesotho | Pakalitha Bethuel MOSISILI Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Public Services |
| Liberia | Toga Gayeweah MCINTOSH Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Liechtenstein | Aurelia FRICK Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Lithuania | Evaldas IGNATAVICIUS Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Luxembourg | Marie-Josée JACOBS Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs |
| Malawi | Arthur Peter MUTHARIKA Minister of Education |

States

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| Malaysia | Nor Mohamed YAKCOP Minister in Prime Minister Department in charge of Economy Planning Unit |
| Maldives | Ahmed NASEEM Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mali | Modibo Ibrahim ATOURE Minister of Posts and New Technologies |
| Mauritania | Abderrahim OULD-HADRAMI Chairman of Delegation |
| Mexico | Luis Alfonso de ALBA Special Envoy for Climate Change |
| Moldova | Victor MORARU Chairman of Delegation |
| Monaco | José BADIA Government Counsellor for External Relations |
| Morocco | Taib EL FASSI FIHRI Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mozambique | Armando INROGA Minister of Industry and Commerce |
| Myanmar | Kam ZAW Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development |
| New Zealand | Amanda ELLIS Deputy Secretary International Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Niger | Aboubacar Ibrahim ABANI Chairman of Delegation |
| Norway | Ingrid FISKAA Deputy Minister of International Development |
| Oman | Sayyid Qais bin Salim bin Ali AL-SAID Chairman of Delegation |
| Pakistan | Adnan KHAN Chairman of Delegation |
| Panama | Pablo Antonio THALASSINÓS Chairman of Delegation |
| Peru | Jorge ABARC Chairman of Delegation |

States

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| Philippines | Pedro CHAN Chairman of Delegation |
| Poland | Mirosław SYCZ Deputy Director of the Development Cooperation Department of Foreign Affairs |
| Portugal | João Gomes CRAVINHO Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation |
| Republic of Korea | Min Dong SEOK Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Romania | Doru Romulus COSTEA Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Russian Federation | Andrey DENISOV First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Rwanda | Louise MUSHIKIWABO Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation |
| Samoa | Tuilaepa Sailele MALIELEGAOI Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Saudi Arabia | Nizar Obaid MADANI Minister of State for Foreign Affairs |
| Senegal | Madické NIANG Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Serbia | Vuk JEREMIC Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Sierra Leone | Joseph Bandabla DAUDA Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| Singapore | Vanu GAPALA MENO Chairman of Delegation |
| Slovenia | Samuel ŽBOGAR Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Solomon Islands | Manasseh MAELANGA, Deputy Prime Minister |
| Somalia | Abdi Waki Mohamed ALI Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation |
| South Africa | MASHABANE Chairman of Delegation |

States

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| Spain | Cristobal GONZALEZ-ALLER Chairman of Delegation |
| Sri Lanka | Neomal PERERA Deputy Minister of External Affairs |
| Sudan | Daff-Alla ELHAG ALI Chairman of Delegation |
| Switzerland | Marco ROSSI Chairman of Delegation |
| Tajikistan | Akilov AKIL Prime Minister |
| Thailand | Vijavat ISARABHAK Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Timor-Leste | Zacarias Albano DA COSTA Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation |
| Togo | Dede Ahoefa EKOUE Minister of Planning and Development |
| Tunisia | Radhouane NOUICER Chairman of Delegation |
| Tuvalu | Willy TELAVI Prime Minister |
| Uganda | Sam KUTESA Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Ukraine | Kostyantyn GRYSHCENKO Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| United Arab Emirates | Maitha ALSHAMSI Minister of State |
| United Kingdom | Stephen O'BRIEN Minister for International Development |
| United Republic of Tanzania | Mohammed Gharib BILAL Vice-President |
| United States | Donald STEINBERG Deputy Administrator, United States Agency for International Development |
| Vanuatu | Serge Rialuth VOHOR Prime Minister |

States

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| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | Temir Porras PONCELEON Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs |
| Viet Nam | DOAN Xuan Hung Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Yemen | Abdou Rabbu HADI MANSOUR Vice-President |
| Zambia | Rupiah Bwezani BANDA President |
| Observer | |
| Palestine | Ali JARBAWI Minister of Planning and Administrative Development |

Specialized and related agencies

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| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) | Mustapha SINACEUR Representative |
| International Labour Organization (ILO) | José Manuel SALAZAR Executive Director |
| International Maritime Organization (IMO) | Juvenal SHIUNDU Deputy Director Technical Co-operation Division |
| International Telecommunication Union | Hamadoun TOURE Secretary-General |
| Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) | Craig MOKHIBER Representative |
| World Meteorological Organization | Kaliba KONARÉ Director |
| United Nations bodies and programmes | |
| Economic and Social Council | Lazarous KAPAMBWE President |
| United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | Gunilla OLSSON Director of Governance, United Nations and Multilateral Affairs |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | Taffere TESFACHEW Chief in the Office of the Secretary-General |
| United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Bakary KANTE Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions |
| United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | Safia COGAR Director |

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| World Food Programme | Amir ABDULLA Deputy Executive Director |
| Economic Commission for Africa | Abdouie JANNEH Under-Secretary-General |
| Intergovernmental organizations | |
| African Development Bank | Kamal EL KHESHEN Vice-President |
| African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States | Achille BASSILEKIN Assistant Secretary-General |
| Common Fund for Commodities | Ali MCHUMO Managing Director |
| International Organization for Migration | William Lacy SWING Director General |
| International Organization of la Francophonie | Clément DUHAIME Administrator |
| Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) | Hameed OPELOYERU Assistant Secretary-General |
| Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) | Leonidas CHRYSANTHOPOULOS Secretary General |
| Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization | Tibor TÓTH Executive Secretary |

Annex IV

Attendance

1. The following States and the European Union were represented at the Conference:

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| Afghanistan | Estonia |
| Albania | Ethiopia |
| Algeria | European Union |
| Angola | Finland |
| Antigua and Barbuda | France |
| Argentina | Gabon |
| Australia | Gambia |
| Austria | Georgia |
| Azerbaijan | Germany |
| Bahrain | Greece |
| Bangladesh | Guinea |
| Belarus | Guinea-Bissau |
| Belgium | Haiti |
| Benin | Holy See |
| Bhutan | Hungary |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Iceland |
| Brazil | India |
| Brunei Darussalam | Indonesia |
| Bulgaria | Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| Burkina Faso | Iraq |
| Burundi | Ireland |
| Cambodia | Israel |
| Cameroon | Italy |
| Canada | Japan |
| Central African Republic | Jordan |
| Chad | Kazakhstan |
| Chile | Kenya |
| China | Kiribati |
| Colombia | Kuwait |
| Comoros | Kyrgyzstan |
| Congo | Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| Croatia | Latvia |
| Cuba | Lebanon |
| Cyprus | Lesotho |
| Czech Republic | Liberia |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Liechtenstein |
| Denmark | Lithuania |
| Djibouti | Luxembourg |
| Dominica | Madagascar |
| Dominican Republic | Malawi |
| Ecuador | Malaysia |
| Egypt | Maldives |
| Equatorial Guinea | Mali |
| Eritrea | Malta |

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| Mauritania | Sierra Leone |
| Mauritius | Singapore |
| Mexico | Slovakia |
| Monaco | Slovenia |
| Mongolia | Solomon Islands |
| Montenegro | Somalia |
| Morocco | South Africa |
| Mozambique | Spain |
| Myanmar | Sri Lanka |
| Namibia | Sudan |
| Nepal | Swaziland |
| Netherlands | Sweden |
| New Zealand | Switzerland |
| Niger | Tajikistan |
| Nigeria | Thailand |
| Norway | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| Oman | Timor-Leste |
| Pakistan | Togo |
| Palau | Tunisia |
| Panama | Turkey |
| Peru | Turkmenistan |
| Philippines | Tuvalu |
| Poland | Uganda |
| Portugal | Ukraine |
| Qatar | United Arab Emirates |
| Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| Republic of Moldova | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Romania | United States of America |
| Russian Federation | Vanuatu |
| Rwanda | Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Viet Nam |
| Samoa | Yemen |
| Sao Tome and Principe | Zambia |
| Saudi Arabia | |
| Senegal | |
| Serbia | |

2. Palestine attended the Conference as an observer.
3. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented:
 - Economic Commission for Africa
 - Economic Commission for Europe
 - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
 - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
4. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:
 - United Nations Secretariat
 - Department of Economic and Social Affairs

International Trade Centre
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Capital Development Fund
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Fund for Population Activities
United Nations Global Compact
United Nations Information Centre
United Nations Office for Project Services
United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office
United Nations University
United Nations Volunteers
UN-Women
World Food Programme

5. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Labour Organization
International Maritime Organization
International Monetary Fund
International Telecommunications Union
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
Organization
World Bank Group
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations World Tourism Organization

World Health Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Meteorological Organization

World Trade Organization

6. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

African Development Bank

African Union

Asian Development Bank

Association of Caribbean States

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Common Fund for Commodities

Commonwealth Secretariat

Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

International Organization for Migration

International Organization of La Francophonie

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Islamic Development Bank Group

League of Arab States

OPEC Fund for International Development

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organization of the Islamic Conference and South Centre

7. Other entities having received a standing invitation and participating as observers were: Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference member States.

8. A large number of the parliamentary representatives from the following countries attended the Conference, including:

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| Afghanistan | Madagascar |
| Angola | Malawi |
| Austria | Maldives |
| Bangladesh | Mali |
| Belgium | Mauritania |
| Bhutan | Mongolia |
| Brazil | Montenegro |
| Burkina Faso | Morocco |
| Burundi | Mozambique |
| Cambodia | Nepal |
| Chad | Norway |
| Comoros | Oman |
| Czech Republic | Pakistan |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Poland |
| Denmark | Republic of Moldova |
| Djibouti | Samoa |
| Dominican Republic | Saudi Arabia |
| Equatorial Guinea | Senegal |
| Ethiopia | Sierra Leone |
| Gambia | Slovenia |
| Greece | Solomon Islands |
| Guinea-Bissau | Somalia |
| Hungary | Spain |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Sudan |
| Iraq | Togo |
| Jordan | Turkey |
| Kazakhstan | Tuvalu |
| Kenya | Uganda |
| Kiribati | United Republic of Tanzania |
| Kuwait | Vanuatu |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | Zambia |
| Lesotho | Associate Members |
| Liberia | European Parliament |

9. A large number of business entities and organizations attended the Conference, including: A.P. Moller-Maersk Group, ABAKLI İNŞ. TEKS.DIŞ A.Ş., ABC Real Estates Ltd, Abraaj Capital, ACI LIMITED, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), AFI, African Business Roundtable, African Export Import Bank, African Innovation and Development, Africapractice, AKBANK, Akkim Construction Materials, Allianz SE, ALP Sustainability Management Consultancy, Altindag, Antakya Commodity Exchange, ARGE Consulting, Association of Women and Construction, Atce Educational NGO, Athgo International, Aydeniz Group, Babaeski Commodity Exchange, Bagatur Law Office, Balmed Holdings, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Bank Asya, Bank of Ghana, Bank of Indonesia, BAUTECH, Baymaz Group, Bayraktar Construction Inc., Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bersay Communications, Bertelsmann Foundation, BEST CO./DEIK (Foreign Economic Relations Board)/WCF (World Chambers Federation), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BisCam International, BMF, BMZ,

BOAD, BOYDAK Holding, BPM International, BPW, BPW Club Adana Turkey, Burj Energy Pakistan (Private) Limited/ACE, Cairoscientific Corporation/Egyptian Business Women Association, Calkan Constraction, Cambodia Investment Board, Çanakkale Commodity Exchange, Capital Markets Board of Turkey, Cengiz Holding, Center for Sustainable Innovative Global Enterprise, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Centre pour le Développement de l'Entreprise, Cev Energy, CEY Engineering and Contractors Co. Ltd, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Timor-Leste, Chega Tours Ltd, China NTG Gas Group, China-Africa Development Fund, CIWI GmbH, Committee on Equality, Compagnie Sucriere du Tchad, Confederation of Tanzania Industries, Conseil National Patronat Guinée, Copagaz Distribuidora de Gás Ltda, Corporate Training, Craftoffshore international, Credit Guarantee Fund, CTW-Holdings, Cuneyd Zapsu Danismanlik, Cx Catalysts, DAL Group, DEPA Electronics, World Bank, DEVAK, Development Bank of Turkey, Digital Opportunity Trust, Diyarbakır Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dogus Grubu, Donor Committee for Enterprise Development, DOT, Dumankaya Construction, Earth Institute, Eksiogullari, Endeva, Entebbe Handling Services Limited, Enterprise Botswana, Erbalci Construction Materials, Erdem Construction Development Co, Erdem Holding, Erenler A.S., Eriş Flour, Ersen Textile, Ethical Fashion Africa, Etoile Partners, FBCCI (The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry), Federation of Euro Asian Stock Exchanges, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Federation of Turkish Tourist Guide Associations, Finance in Motion, Fine Spinners (T) Ltd, Finlay International Limited, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, Foreign Economic Board of Turkey (DEİK), Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey, GAP, Garanti Securities, Garnet Medical and Tech.Systems, GDF Suez, GEMCILER INC., General Electric, Gent University, CGAP, Global Business Solutions, Global Star Auto Traders (T) Ltd, Global Summit of Women, Go on Investment Ltd, Government Employees Pension Fund, South Africa, Greater Mekong Sub-Region Business Forum, Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd, Green Inc., GreenEarth.Travel, Group Pão de Açúcar, GTİ, H.O Sabanci Holding, Halk Bank, Harith Fund Managers, Horticultural Development Council of Tanzania, ICICI Bank Limited, ICS, IFC, IFC Istanbul Office, In change Investment Ltd, İnceoğlu Erdem Construction, Industrial Development Bank, Inflection Point Capital Management, Interbrand, Intercultural Euro-Mediterranean Center for UNESCO, International Chamber of Commerce, International Telecommunication Union, International Business Leaders Forum, Iringa Retco Business College, Islamic Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank Group, Istanbul Convention and Visitors Bureau, Istanbul Stock Exchange, ISTIKBAL, ITC, Jacma Enterprises Ltd, Jiangsu Redbud Textile Technology Co., Ltd, Kadiahmetoğulları Construction, Kagider, Karınca Lojistik A.Ş., Kay & Que (Bangladesh) Ltd, Kayseri Chamber of Industry, KETSAN, Keymen Ilac San Ve Tic Ltd. STI, KLG, Koc Holding A.S., KOSGEB, Kucukbay Oil Industries, KUMTEL, Kuşadası Chamber of Commerce, Lafarge, Lesotho National Development Corporation, Libera Capital, Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Linksoft Global Resources Ltd, Live Mapping, Lotus Holdings, Lusaka Stock Exchange, Maersk Line, Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd., Management Analysis, Inc., Mansour Group, Marriott International Lodging, MBH Global Resources Ltd., McKinsey, Ministry of Industry and Trade (Turkey), Mitsui and Co., Europe Plc Istanbul Branch, Mogadishu Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Monitor, mPedigree Network, MT-DAR Trading and Consultancy Services Ltd, Nash Import and Export Ltd, National Association of Nigerian

Traders — NANTS, Nepal Turkey Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NTCCI), Nestlé, Netafim, Netafim Ltd., Netas, Nitol Niloy Group, Novozymes, OECD, Okitipupa Oil Palm plc, ONUR OIL CO., Ortadoğu Energy, Ortadogu Energy Petroleum Engineering Construction Industry and Trade Limited (PETROLAND), Pacific Asia Travel Association and Jetwing Sri Lanka, Palestinian Monetary Authority, Partners Worldwide, PASİAD, Paza Trading Co. Ltd., Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Private Sector Federation, Privatization Agency, Promixco Limited, Proskauer Rose LLP, Real Estate — Link, RECA, Rhea Asset Management, Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms University, Ricoh Company, Ltd., Rixos Hotels, RMA Group, Royal Monetary Authority, Rubicon Cleantech, Sabanci Foundation, Sabanci Holding, Sabanci University, Sadeiş Jewelry, Salini Costruttori, Salini costruttori spa, Samba Mbowe, Sanko Machine, Saray Holding, SATBA, Sato Engineering Nigeria Limited, Save the Children Sweden, Serena Hotels, Shibat Enterprises Ltd, Signet Petroleum Limited Sierra Leone, Sinop Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SKM Ventures, Snow Crest Hotel and Wild Life Safari, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Solomon Islands Women in Business, Soroptimist, South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange, South-South News, Syndicat Des Industries De Madagascar, Synergy (T) Ltd, Talisman Energy Inc., Tanzania Investment Centre, Tanzania National Business Council, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation, TechnoServe, Telenor Group, TEPAV, TEPAV Stability Institute, Tever Forest, Products, The Coca-Cola Company, The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, TIMA International, Tito Light Company Ltd, TOBB, TOBB ETU, TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Board, Toros Agri Industry, Trace Hills company Limited 1, TULU A.Ş., Turkcell, Turkish Airlines, Turkish Exporters Asssembly/Dalgakiran Basınçlı Hava Mak. Tic. Ve San A.Ş., Turkish Exporters Asssembly/Erciyas Çelik Boru San. ve A.Ş., Turkish Exporters Asssembly/KLASS DIŞ TİC. LTD. ŞTİ., Turkish Exporters Asssembly/Öztiryakiler Madeni Eşya San. ve Tic A.Ş., Turkish Exporters Asssembly/Vestel Diş Tic. A.Ş., Turkish Industry and Business Organization-TUSIAD, Turkish Treasury, KAGIDER, TUSKON, TUSKON/Beijing Representative, TUSKON US, TUSKON/Moscow Representative, TUSKON/Eurasia Representative, Uganda Allied Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Uganda Export Promotion Board, Ugursan Shipping and Port Operations Co, UMFCCI, Myanmar, UNA-Zambia, UNCTAD, United Nations Global Compact, Unilever San. ve Tic. Turk A.S., Uni-Mar Energy Investments, University of Gent, United States Council for International Business, Uşak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UZD Cevre ve Is Guvenligi, Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority, Visao Sustentavel, Viyellatex, Volcanic Earth, WeConnect Europe, WEConnect International, Western Union FS GmbH. Turkey Liaison Office, WIN Conference, Women In Business Development, World Farmers Organisation, World Trade Centers Associations (Hong Kong), Yara International, YDA GROUP, Yeditefe University, Yenigün Construction Industry and Trade Inc., Yilbak Ticaret A.S., YiYuan (Shanghai) Environmental Group Co. Ltd, Yuksel Construction Co., Yuksel Holding, Zaman University, Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority.

10. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the Conference:
 11.11.11 Coordination of the Flemish North South Movement/Eurostep, Afghanistan Islamic Medical Association (AIMA), Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger Sierra Leone, African Business Roundtable, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, African Women's Association, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), Agence africaine pour le commerce et le developpement, Agra

College-Agra, Aguipeg, Akademi Lisan ve ilmi Arastirmalar Dernegi, Al-Amal for Development Social Care, Alihsan Charity Organization, Aljawf Women Organization, All Nepal Peasants' Federation, Alp Sustainable Development Consultancy, Amodefa, Appui au developpment integral et a la solidarite sur les collines (ADISCO), Aprofem, Arab Federation for Environment Protection (AFEP), Arab Ngo Network for Development, Arci Cultura E Sviluppo (ARCS), Arena, Asia Riches International Investment Negotiation Limited, Asrad-Mali, Assamo Youth Organization, Association pour le Bien-Etre Familial et le Developpement Durable, Association de lutte contre la dependance (ALDC), Association des amis de l'hopital d'enfants de Rabat (AAHER), Association des femmes de l'afrique de l'ouest (AFAO), Association des jeunes pour l'agriculture au Mali (ASJAM), Association Femmes et Actions pour le Developpement, Association Jeunesse Action Developpement, Association of Young Entrepreneurs, Association pour le Developpement economique social environnemental, Assosa Environmental Protection Association (AEPA), Attac Togo, Azefkat Yolu Dernegi, Aziz Mahmud Hudai Vakfi, Bab-I Alem International Student Association, Bab-I Alem International Student Association/Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF), Bab-I Alem International Student Association/Ethiopian Economic Association, Bahcesehir University Center for Economic and Social Research, Beyaz Ay Association of Turkey, Bilim ve Sanat Vakfi Foundation for Science and Arts, Binghamton University, Bogazici University, Bogazici University Reunion Association (Bura), Brigham Young University, Burum Seafood Company, Burundian Youth for Peacebuilding and Young Refugees Integration, Call of Sunnah Association, Campaign for Good Governance, Cansuyu Charity and Solidarity Organization, Capital City Women's Platform, Care Osterreich, CCR, Cecide, Centre d'etudes et de recherche pour une population dynamique, Centre for Cross-Cultural Communication, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Dhaka, Centre national de cooperation au developpment, Child Workers in Nepal, CIVICUS — World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Civil Society Organization Network, Clifford Global Education Initiative, Coalition for Lao Information Communication and Knowledge, Cojep International, Community Youth Network Program, Conseil national de la jeunesse, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, Conseil national des organisations de societe civil, Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), Dali Ngo Federation of Nepal, Deniz Feneri Dernegi, Doctors Worldwide, Doctors Worldwide Turkey, Dost Welfare Foundation, Economic and Social Research Foundation — Esrf, Economic Justice Coalition, Elongo Elonga ongd, EMDHR, EMISCO, ENAR, End Water Poverty, Engineers for a Sustainable World, Environmental Development Action In the Third World (ENDA)-Ethiopia, Esystems for Charity, EURODAD, Ex Catalysts, Facultad de Derecho y Criminologia Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International E.V, FECOFUN, Federation Des Ong Au Togo, Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), FEMNET Mali, Fondation des oeuvres pour la solidarite et le bien être social, Forum for Nature Protection, FOSAPA, Foundation for Human Rights & Democracy/LDC Watch, Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief, Foundation for Sciences and Arts, Bilim ve sanat Vakfi, Foundation Sciences and Arts, Bilim ve Sanat Vakfi, GAPAFOT, GARED, Gargar Foundation of Development, GCAP Korea, Global Alliance for Sustainable Iraq (GAASI), Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF NEPAL), Green Alternatives and Peace Movement Uganda, Groupe de recherche et d'action pour la promotion de l'agriculture, Hacettepe University,

Hadaf Cultural Foundation, Hawa Organization, Hayat Saglik ve Sosyal Hizmetler Vakfi, Health Professionals Association, Hekva, Hope for Life Handicapped Brothers and Sister Association, Horizon d'echange et de lutte contre la pauvreté (HELP), Human Development Association (HAD), Human Rights Information-Training Center (HRITC), Humanitarian Efforts and Relief Uganda (Hear UGANDA), Huriet Daily, IBON INTERNATIONAL, IHH Human Rights and Humanitarian Relief, Ihh Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Inades-Formation Brunde, Institute of Middle East Studies, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), International Center for Watching Violation of Rights (UHIM), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Muslim Youth Development Project (IMYDP), International Research Center for Global Peace and Harmony, Inc., International Solidarity and Relief Association (ISRA), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International Volunteers Association, Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF), Islamic Local Development Organization (ILDO), Istanbul Bahcesehir University, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul University, ITU, Jagaran Nepal/Ngo Federation of Nepal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, JCI Maldives, Jesuit Centre for the Development in Africa, Jeunesse Environment Democratie Development, Jonction, Jubilee South-Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development, Junior Chamber International, Justice Facility, Kalkinma Merkezi Dernegi-Association of Development Center, Karen Women Action Group, Kimse Yok Mu Solidarity and Aid Association, Kirsal Cevre, Korea Ngo Council for Overseas Cooperation, Kulich Youth Reproductive Health and Development Organization (KYRHDO), LDC Watch, Lesotho Youth Foundation, Liberian United Youth for Community Safety and Development (LUYCD), Literary Academy for Dalit of Nepal, Loretto Community, Lutfi Banat Ilkogretim Okulu, Mafraq Center for Training and Rehabilitation, Marmara University, Masianday Peace Foundation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mazlumder, Mediterranean Women's Studies Center (KEGME), Mekong Institute, Mirasimiz Dernegi, Muzdalifa Islamic Charitable Organization (Mico), Myanmar Resource Foundation, Nabodhara, Nanjing University, National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal, National Youth Council (Conseil national de la jeunesse), Near Future Foundation, INC, Neighbour Organization (NO) Nepal, Nepal Development Initiative, Nepal Samachar Patra, Ngo Alkhayr for Development in Mauritania, Nogaid Ghana, Oda Watch, Ong Amasot, Ong Benin Rural Assistance, Ong Rayouwan Mata, Organization for Social Development Initiatives (OSDI), Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam New Zealand, Oykos Economic Institute of Environmental Preservation, Ozlenen Cocuk Dernegi, Papda, Participatory Development Training Center (Padetc.), Philanthropy Bridge Foundation, PIANGO, Population Council, Pregesco, Proddes, Profemme Twese Hamwe, Public Fund "Global", Recherche et action pour un developpement multisectoriel (RADEM), Reseau 2 Congo genre et developpment, Reseau de la jeunesse nigerienne sur les changements climatiques, Resource Center for Primary Health Care, Rural Reconstruction Nepal, Sawtee (South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment), Science & Art Foundation, Scientific and Cultural Society of Pakistan, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication-SAAPE, SHINE, SILAKA, Snv Netherlands Development Organization, Social Watch, Societe d'action pour le developpement socail et communataire, Solidarite agissante pour le developpement familial (SADF), Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization, Supreme Council Islamic Affairs in Lesotho, Swinburne University of Technology,

Tai-Solarin University of Education, Takaful for Child Welfare, Tanta University, The Awareness and Consolation Association, The Brookings Institution, The Foundation for Human Rights And Freedom and Humanitarian, The Foundation of Volunteer Organizations of Turkey (TGTV), The Francis Degaulle Nije Foundation, The National Council of Criminology of Pakistan, The Nordic Africa Institute, The Rainbow Istanbul Platform of Women, The Union of NGOs of the Islamic World, Third World Network, Third World Network Africa (TWN-Africa), Toros Agri Industry and Trade, Transnational Institute, Turkiye Beyazay Dernegi (Beyazay Association of Turkey), Uganda Management Assistance Programme (UMAP), Ujmma: jeunes musulmans du Mali, Ukuem (Islamic Association of Education and Economic Development), Uluslararası Gökkuşbuğulu Yardımlaşma Derneği, United Nations Broadband Commission, United Nations Association of Turkey — Youth Selection, United Youth for a New Africa Juna-Togo, Université libre de Bruxelles, Universiti Sains Malaysia, University of California, Unnayan Onneshan-The Innovators, Volontari Nel Mondo (FOCSIV), Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO), Woman Association for Knowledge Culture and Solidarity (ILKDER), Women Association for Knowledge Culture and Solidarity (ILKDER) Turkey, Women Sanitarians Cooperation Institution, World Crossroad Business Center, World Organization of Scout Movement (Scout Association Tily Eto Madagasikara), Worldview-The Gambia, YARDIMELI, Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, Yemeni Women Union, Youth Alliance-The Gambia, Youth Engagement Services (YES) Network Pakistan, Youth for Peace, Youth in Action Association, Youth Network for MDG, Youth Partnership for Peace and Development, Zenab for Women Development Organization.

Annex V**List of special events**

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Convening agency/Member State</i> |
|--|--|
| Commodity dependence and the impact of the multiple global crises on LDCs: mapping the exposure to market volatility and building resilience to future crises | UNCFC, UNCTAD |
| Building a strong and sustainable trading future for LDCs: market entry and capacity-building | World Trade Organization, EIF Executive Secretariat |
| Aid for Trade for LDCs: mobilizing resources and ensuring effectiveness | World Bank |
| New realities, challenges and opportunities for rural development in LDCs — Findings from the 2011 Rural Poverty Report | IFAD |
| The international commitment to reduce the cost of remittances and the importance of remittances for LDCs' development | Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, France, Italy, World Bank |
| Innovative financing: a solution to meet LDCs' development goals | Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, in partnership with the United Nations |
| Joint event with CEB's Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity "Development of productive capacities and trade: the key to inclusive and sustainable growth" | United Nations Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity |
| Addressing vulnerability to climate change in LDCs | UNFCCC |
| Build on broadband: a winning formula for attaining the Millennium Development Goals | ITU |
| Equitable human development: investing in nutrition in LDCs | Nepal, United States of America, UNICEF, WFP |
| Enhancing the role of SMEs in the agribusiness global value chains | UNIDO and TIKA |
| Regional integration for human development in LDCs: a pathway for Africa | UNDP |
| High-level Forum on Building a Comprehensive Framework for Promoting Development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through Innovation and Creativity | WIPO, Turkish Patent Institute |
| Promoting tourism for sustainable development and poverty reduction | UNWTO, ILO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, World Trade Organization, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey |
| Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and Turkey's development cooperation | TIKA |

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Convening agency/Member State</i> |
|--|--|
| Employment and social protection in LDCs | ILO |
| Women as a subject of sustainable development and positive action | Directorate General for the Status of Women, Turkey |
| Macroeconomic policies for LDCs: from economic recovery to sustainable development | DESA |
| Building resilience for sustainable development: international cooperation and national strategies | Nepal, UNDP |
| Promoting women's economic empowerment through financial inclusion and agricultural development | Austria, Luxembourg, UNCDF |
| Green growth and least developed countries: a dialogue with the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability | United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability |
| Responsible agricultural investment in LDCs | FAO |
| Ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, AIDS treatment, care and support by 2015: country level perspectives | UNAIDS |
| Implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in LDCs | FCTC Secretariat, Ministry of Health of Turkey |
| Water issues in the least developed countries | Permanent Mission of Tajikistan to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, FAO, IFAD, WWAP/UNESCO |
| Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in LDCs: sustainable land management and climate change adaptation: synergistical implementation of UNCCD NAPs and UNFCCC NAPAs | UNCCD |
| Optimizing support measures for LDCs: access, utilization and effectiveness: launch of the LDC information portal and the publication of "Out of the Trap" | DESA and FERDI |
| Gender and migration: care workers at the interface of migration and development | UN-Women, ILO |
| Special event on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the decade 2001-2010 by Asia-Pacific LDCs and the way forward | ESCAP |
| Sustainable agri-food supply chains and food security | UNEP |
| Population dynamics and poverty reduction in LDCs | UNFPA |
| Making trade work for women in LDCs | UN-Women, UNCTAD |

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Convening agency/Member State</i> |
|---|--|
| Turkish Government's support to forestry on dry and degraded lands in least developed countries: opportunities and challenges | Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey, UNCCD |
| The global shift in wealth: what does it mean for LDCs' development | OECD |
| Illicit financial flows from the least developed countries | Turkey (Deputy Prime Minister's Office) and Benin |
| Forum on building productive capacities for poverty eradication | OIC and Turkey |
| Monitoring tools to track progress in implementation of the new programme of action: launch of the ECA African LDCs Mapper | ECA |
| Intercultural cooperation for scientific and technological development | Turkish National Coordination Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, TUBITAK |
| Cotton as a driver for sustainable transformation of LDC economies | ACP, OIF |
| Turkey's development and cooperation experience | State Planning Organization, Turkey |
| Joint UNGIS event — Harnessing ICTs for development: opportunities and challenges for LDCs | UNESCO, ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD and ECA |
| Accelerating actions to address climate change in developing countries: the untapped role of the media | Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations; South-South News |
| Integrating migration and remittances in LDC national and regional development planning, including through a gender perspective | IOM, UN-Women |
| Mutual accountability for LDCs: a framework for aid quality and beyond | Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OECD/DAC, UNDP |
| Delivering for development in conflict-affected LDCs: the role of governance and State-building | ESCWA, IDPS, World Bank |

Abbreviations: DAC, Development Assistance Committee; DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; FCTC, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; FERDI, Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international; IDPS, International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building; NAPAS, national adaptation programmes of action; NAPS, national action programmes; UNCCD, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; UNCDF, United Nations Capital Development Fund; UNCFC, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; UNGIS, United Nations Group on the Information Society; UNWTO, United Nations World Tourism Organization; WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization; WWAP, World Water Assessment Programme.

Annex VI

Civil Society Forum Istanbul Declaration

1. We, representatives of civil society organizations, who have met here in Istanbul from 7 to 13 May 2011 at the Civil Society Forum of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, have very much appreciated the opportunities throughout this process to express our views on the challenges to least developed countries (LDCs) and the development of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Istanbul political declaration.

2. However, it is with deep disappointment that, at the conclusion of this process, it is clear that our voices have not been heard and reflected in the conference outcomes. The negotiations started with analyses of the failings of the Brussels Programme of Action, also reflected in UNCTAD's LDC Report 2010. These showed that development partners failed to deliver their commitments to provide adequate aid, reform unjust trade rules, remove the burden of debt and build the capacity of LDCs.

3. More importantly, various analyses also pointed to flaws and shortcomings of the model of development promoted by dominant players in the international community. Export-led growth has been inequitable and unsustainable, resulting in LDC commodity dependency, de-industrialization, environmental damage and socio-economic marginalization. These failures and the flawed paradigm have contributed to the growth in LDCs from 24 to 48 and the graduation of only three LDCs over the last three decades. More than half the women and men in LDCs still live in abject poverty. There is widespread violation of human rights. Social justice and peace have remained a dream.

4. From the beginning we have stated clearly that this is unacceptable. The development paradigm must be changed. Our calls echoed proposals for a New International Support Architecture, and gone further in calling for a more fundamental transformation of the relations between rich and poor, powerful and powerless, men and women, the elites and those without resources, the dominant and the marginalized. We have urged for this conference to mark a turning point towards a more just, more equitable and more sustainable world. We are deeply disappointed that the Istanbul Programme of Action has failed to meet these challenges.

5. We strongly believe that it is important to base development on LDCs' strengths and not on their weaknesses. Countries may be categorized as "poor" according to United Nations criteria, but they are rich in many important aspects — in community cohesion, in natural resources and in being able to live in harmony with our natural world, in diverse cultures and in human dignity. And especially in the growing numbers of young women and men who have huge potential and hopes for a better future. In many ways, our societies are the most developed countries, not the least developed.

6. But the LDCs are economically disadvantaged, exploited and marginalized. As part of the preparation for this conference, civil society engaged in an extensive process of listening to the concerns of the people in the LDCs through local, national and regional consultations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. These highlighted the greater burdens that the marginalized and vulnerable peoples of

LDCs have had to face in the last decade, with new crises of food, water and energy, the impacts of the financial crisis, and the intensification of the climate crisis. There is deep fear over an uncertain future even as there is determination to survive.

7. The conference has failed to meet our expectations and the United Nations General Assembly mandate. United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/227 calls on governments to mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries, and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners. This has not happened. Civil society is frustrated that, having caused massive costs in the LDCs through financial and food speculation, unjust trade rules, illegitimate loans with onerous conditionality, and ecological damage, including climate change, the developed countries have not even committed to provide more aid to LDCs. Even worse, many donors are either reducing their aid or diverting it to pay for climate change damage, despite their commitments in UNFCCC negotiations to provide new and additional funding for climate finance. Current levels of aid are dwarfed by the mounting costs of the damage done to LDC economies and their people.

8. We recognize the strong efforts of LDC governments and the Turkish government to develop tangible commitments in the Programme of Action, but the United Nations General Assembly resolution's call for a renewed partnership has been undermined by the developed countries systematically having removed any targets, timetables and delivery mechanisms that may have been used to hold them to account. They have refused to accept commitments beyond those already agreed in other forums like the Millennium Summit, the World Trade Organization and climate change negotiations. And they have used these negotiations to try to drive divisions between developing countries by calling for some developing countries to accept the same obligations as developed countries. South-South cooperation will be crucially important for the future of LDCs, but developing countries need to contribute according to their common aims but differentiated responsibilities. Support for LDCs from the South should complement, but not be a substitute for, the agreed obligations of developed countries.

9. We welcome the attention paid to enhancing productive capacity in the Programme of Action. This is crucial to create jobs for the growing numbers of young people through inclusive policies that capture more value from resources, diversify the economy and build on the strengths of LDCs. We also welcome the recognition that governments need to lead the development process, not donors or the private sector, and we welcome the establishment of a technology bank.

10. But the approach adopted in the Programme of Action relies heavily on economic liberalization repackaged in new ways. Market-led approaches have been replaced by private sector-led approaches. The Programme of Action calls for the removal of impediments to the private sector, without recognition that governments need to regulate to protect workers, consumers, the environment and local communities. Civil society accepts that the private sector can play a useful role, but our experience is of companies that have unsustainably exploited minerals, fish and forests; land grabs that have stolen the resources and livelihoods of local people; biofuel plantations that have destroyed forests and agricultural lands; food dumping that has destroyed farmers' livelihoods; and projects that leave local people with no

water and a polluted environment. Intellectuals meeting here have reminded us that the LDCs must not remain the MECs — the most exploited countries.

11. In a number of areas, the Programme of Action calls for public finance to be given to the private sector in the forms of guarantees, investment promotion schemes and incentives. But these subsidies hand over public money to the private sector in the hope that the market will deliver public benefits. International experience with public private partnerships demonstrates the need to avoid the public sector paying for the costs while the companies reap the profits. Funds needed to overcome poverty and injustice, including education, health care, water and sanitation, gender equity, social inclusion and community development, are being diverted to subsidize companies. There is grossly insufficient funding now to meet the needs of the resource poor, without more being diverted from donors and governments to companies. Expropriation of the public purse is unacceptable.

12. We are calling for the Istanbul consensus to constitute a clear rejection of the Washington consensus. Government policy should be based on participative national development strategies that focus on each country's vision and core strengths. We must build jobs and opportunities for the sustainable use of our oil, our mineral wealth, our land, our forests, our fish and other natural resources, protecting the rights of traditional owners and users of the resources, adding value and insisting on fair prices. Diversification of our economies will require government leadership to build a strong domestic economy, with particular emphasis on creating opportunities for cooperatives and social enterprises, small and medium companies and women-led organizations. The rights of vulnerable and marginalized people must be put at the centre of economic decision-making, with stronger mechanisms for transparency, integrity and accountability.

13. In particular, LDCs should pursue an environmentally sustainable and equitable growth strategy that is labour intensive, which provides decent work opportunities to a wider range of people, especially the large numbers of young women and men, coupled with opportunities to gain new skills and improve their livelihoods. LDC governments should uphold and guarantee core labour rights, including freedom of association, and prepare national plans for the implementation of the ILO Global Jobs Pact with the meaningful participation of social partners and representative civil society organizations.

14. Export-led growth was an important component of LDCs' development strategies in the Brussels Programme of Action, but LDCs still account for only around 1 per cent of world exports. A decade ago, there were expectations that trade reform would be possible as part of a Doha Development Agenda. But "development" has been erased from the agenda, and negotiations are stuck because of the unwillingness of developed countries to agree to reform the major trade distortions in the system, notably due to inequitable rules on agriculture. Civil society is calling for an end to unjust trade agreements and for LDCs to resist efforts by developed countries to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements. Special and differential treatment and policy flexibility for LDCs need to be made operational according to a given country's stage of development (rather than limiting it by time) within the World Trade Organization and regional and bilateral agreements, so that LDCs can adopt development strategies that reflect their specific needs and opportunities.

15. We call for the promotion of economically viable, socially acceptable and ecologically sustainable farming practices so that food sovereignty of LDC people is strengthened. Agricultural research that builds on seed diversity and sociocultural farming practices needs to be supported, and new and additional financial resources must be mobilized to support adaptation and strengthened resilience to climate change-related impacts. Agrarian reform policies must support the needs, strengths and rights of smallholder farmers, particularly women, and support them to organize into producer associations or cooperatives and to add value to their indigenous production systems.

16. We urge governments of LDCs to promote and implement women's rights and gender equality, and to guarantee in their development strategies the enjoyment by women of their rights, as stated in domestic laws and international and regionally agreed standards. Governments must ensure the effective participation of women in the formulation of policies and decisions, implementation, monitoring, follow-up and evaluation of strategies aimed at the realization of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

17. All countries need to respect the human rights of migrants, migrant workers, their children and their other dependants. The right to "movement with dignity" must be ensured. An effective regulatory mechanism must be set up to prevent sexual exploitation and forced labour, particularly for women and children who are highly vulnerable to these deprivations. Countries must provide access to basic services and amenities and ensure effective social security systems for migrant workers. International efforts to combat ongoing incidences of human trafficking must be stepped up with provisions of severe penalties for people who engage in the trafficking of human beings.

18. Public investment in human development must not be sidelined in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Education is crucial for citizens of LDCs to be able to participate fully in economic, social and political life. But formal education levels remain low in most LDCs. Although many LDCs are making progress towards the MDG targets for primary education, this has not translated into opportunities for continuing education at the secondary and tertiary levels. This is essential if young women and men are to have the skills to participate as citizens and as skilled contributors to LDC economies.

19. Similarly, the need to strengthen health systems and infrastructure and to ensure functional health systems at all levels is critical to achieving the health-related goals of the MDGs. Governments need to allocate sufficient resources to provide the infrastructure, salaries, human resources and training for education, and increase public health expenditure.

20. We call for governments and donors to give a new priority to water and sanitation for all by 2020, and to the global Sanitation and Water for All partnership as a global platform to deliver national commitments on sanitation and water. The urban poor are particularly neglected. Service delivery plans must meet the growing needs for water and sanitation in cities and towns. The problem is not one of water scarcity but of political will. Government needs to develop mechanisms for social protection to be available to all citizens, greater accountability for the delivery of all essential services and the adoption of a rights-based approach. Civil society rejects the privatization of essential services under the guise of public private partnerships or otherwise.

21. We call for the immediate and unconditional cancellation of all debts of LDCs and a moratorium on debt payments by LDC governments pending debt cancellation. An international process with counterpart national processes should be established, aimed at a rigorous study of illegitimate debt, including case studies, in order to come up with policies that lead to full and unconditional debt cancellation and changes in lending and borrowing policies and practices. Immediate changes must be pursued in the practices of lending and borrowing to move towards sovereign, democratic and responsible financing.

22. Industrialized countries must commit to deep, drastic, and unconditional cuts in carbon and greenhouse gas emissions through domestic measures, to be expressed in international, legally binding agreements within the Climate Convention that contain targets based on science and equity. The pursuit of false solutions must cease. They also need to commit to obligatory, predictable, condition-free, additional, non-debt creating public finance to cover the full costs of adaptation in countries of the South, as well as the costs of shifting to sustainable systems — to be part of international legally binding agreements within the Climate Convention. Action is urgently needed to avoid catastrophic climate change. The Istanbul target to reduce the numbers of LDCs needs to occur because they graduate, not because they burn or drown due to the impacts of climate change.

23. We call for more and better ODA, which must be directed towards development effectiveness rather than the dominant aid effectiveness approach. ODA must respect sovereignty and support people-owned policies and programmes, rather than undermine them by conditionality. Adequate and predictable sources of finance are needed, such as from a Financial Transactions Tax levied on the transactions of the major banks and financial institutions.

24. Civil society must be given a stronger role as a partner in development. Real ownership by LDCs of their development strategies requires not only ownership by governments but by society as a whole. States need to have the political space to decide on their own development, and strategies need to be discussed democratically, approved and monitored. In that regard, the primary accountability of governments should be to their own societies and parliaments, not to donors, investors or international agencies like the World Bank, IMF or the World Trade Organization. Civil society should play a key role in supporting public participation and should be included as a core partner in all decision-making processes. And governments should create space for civil society to have an independent voice.

25. An effective follow-up strategy to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries needs to be created, implemented and monitored. We call for regular reviews of progress to renew commitments and generate political will. The mechanisms should not only rely on United Nations processes, but should also include civil society, the private sector and other actors. There must be opportunities for objective assessments of progress, including the submission of reports by civil society, and mechanisms to hold governments, including both LDCs and development partners, to account for their role in fulfilling the aims of the Istanbul Declaration.

26. The participants in the Civil Society Forum have raised their voices and expressed their hopes for the future. They have expressed the need for immediate and effective follow-up to ensure results and delivery on the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action. The remarkable amount of active participation on

the part of Civil Society, and their commitment to continue working together for various issues long after the Conference, demonstrates their interest and ability to influence change.

27. We will continue our work over the forthcoming decade. We will educate and raise awareness about the crucial challenges facing LDCs and the need for people-centred approaches to development. We will support and mobilize local communities and other citizens to challenge unjust and unsustainable policies and practices. We will play our part in ending the injustice of poverty and suffering. We will continue to work collaboratively with those who share our aims.

28. We conclude by expressing our thanks for the great contributions from our fellow participants here in Istanbul; the Civil Society Steering Committee; Cheick Sidi Diarra, the Secretary-General of this Conference, and the staff of UNOHRLLS; Doctors Worldwide, host of the Civil Society Forum; LDC Watch, the Government of Turkey and the people of this lovely city of Istanbul; and the Chair and members of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries.

Annex VII

Private sector statement

Promoting opportunity, growth and development

1. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) has brought together governments, civil society and the private sector in a unique forum to exchange ideas and recommendations to address the pressing need to promote opportunity, growth and development in the LDCs. The private sector is poised to build on the strong economic growth in many LDCs in the last few years and is convinced that substantial private investment will flow to the countries that can establish a conducive business environment and a level playing field. To that end, the private sector offers the following recommendations.

I. Commit to growth and opportunity

2. The LDCs hold enormous potential to become more prosperous, globally competitive economies. But in order to realize that potential, each country needs to commit to promoting growth and opportunity, take control of its own development and ensure national ownership of the development process. Economic development must be home-grown and reflect its history, culture, circumstances and context. This commitment to growth and opportunity is the first step for promoting business confidence.

II. Support entrepreneurship and private enterprise

3. Open markets and private enterprise are critical for development. No other human activity matches private enterprise in its ability to assemble people, capital and innovation in order to create productive jobs and produce goods and services profitably — the source of wealth creation. LDCs need to encourage and enable responsible and sustainable business, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, and ensure a fair, competitive playing field for all business.

III. Establish a conducive operating environment

4. All forms of private enterprise — domestic markets, foreign investment and international trade — require an operating environment conducive to growth and development, including: peace and stability, the rule of law, good governance with accountability and transparency, the absence of corruption, adequate infrastructure, an educated workforce, clear property rights and enforceable contracts. As the top priorities, LDCs must work to establish peace and stamp out endemic corruption where it exists. Creating the right conditions for private enterprise may require strategic reforms to long-standing regulatory practices and may challenge the economic, political and social status quo of an economy, but doing so is absolutely essential to unlocking the full potential of private enterprise and open markets in a way that can promote economic growth, environmental protection and social development.

IV. Promote domestic markets and capital formation

5. For most countries — developed and developing — the main source of economic growth and job creation is a competitive domestic market and particularly the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises. Nurturing and supporting domestic growth should be central to any development effort. LDCs need to set the right framework to encourage domestic savings and investment, including stable macroeconomic policies that limit capital flight, reliable government data on market conditions, sound information disclosure practices and clear and efficient regulatory frameworks for doing business that reduce informality, including getting a business licence, hiring workers, obtaining permits and paying taxes. In order to increase access to capital, LDCs should promote domestic stock exchanges and bond markets, and support capital market information flows.

V. Invest in infrastructure, connectivity and workforce development

6. Railroads, highways, and information and communications technology — the basic tools of transportation and communication — are essential links between regional and international markets, supply chains, and value chains. Improved coordination between public and private investment in infrastructure can have a multiplier effect on development assistance. As competitive economies also require a well-educated workforce with access to advanced skills, training, and differentiated expertise, LDCs should build up their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educational resources and vocational skills training capabilities.

VI. Encourage foreign investment

7. LDCs should complement efforts to develop domestic markets by promoting inward foreign investment, which requires the same conducive operating environment as the domestic market. Foreign investment is a vital source of capital and increased competitiveness and productivity in the national market, and is also a source of significant secondary job creation by domestic enterprises. Given that the majority of foreign investment is directed to larger markets for domestic consumption, smaller LDCs should promote regional integration in order to create larger regional markets that will attract more foreign investment.

VII. Increase international trade

8. Just as open domestic markets are critical to development, open international markets are also critical to realizing the growth potential of LDCs. As a priority, all governments should work to reduce trade barriers and successfully conclude the Doha Development Round at the earliest opportunity. LDCs should also seek to develop regional and South-South trade. LDCs should invest in transportation infrastructure, and improve the efficiency and transparency of customs and transit systems.

VIII. The power of partnerships

9. Effective partnerships between and among governments, the private sector and civil society are particularly useful in addressing complex and interrelated challenges. Such partnerships have proven vital in areas where no single actor can successfully address an issue on its own. The private sector recognizes the power of partnerships and is increasingly taking the lead to initiate them.

IX. The role of the international community

10. The international community should coordinate development assistance to ensure that the impact of aid is fully felt by the recipient country and should be invested in helping LDCs establish a conducive operating environment for entrepreneurship and private enterprise. Beyond financial assistance, the international community should create appropriate and relevant incentives and benchmarks for effective development and promote active information-sharing among LDCs about successful efforts.

11. The private sector stands ready to work as a partner with governments and other actors to advance these recommendations and achieve the full potential of the LDCs.

