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Agenda item 23 (a)

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

South Africa:* draft resolution

**Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least
Developed Countries**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,² adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolution 69/231 of 19 December 2014 on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on the smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/35 of 23 July 2015 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the G77 and China.

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.



1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020³ and on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures;⁴

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

3. *Underscores* that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with themselves, and calls upon the international community to assist them in building their capacities and to strengthen the global partnership for development, including through increased resources, for the least developed countries in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade;

4. *Reaffirms* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

5. *Reaffirms also* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;

6. *Notes with appreciation* that these new development agendas incorporate a number of key development challenges and priorities of the least developed countries;

7. *Underlines* that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries as contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Underlines* the need for strong synergy and coherence regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, calls upon the international community, as a matter of priority, to provide increased and

³ [A/70/83-E/2015/75](#).

⁴ [A/70/292](#).

strengthened support to the least developed countries to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Action Agenda in least developed countries, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to assist in mobilizing increased international support and resources from all sources for the least developed countries, and underlines that the Office of the High Representative should be strengthened to provide this assistance;

9. *Recalls* the decision contained in its resolution 69/231 on the modalities of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and decides that the conference will be held in Antalya, Turkey, from ... to ... June 2016;

10. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting of experts, to be chaired by the co-facilitators, will be held from 28 to 31 March 2016 and will consider the draft outcome document;

11. *Emphasizes* that the midterm review should provide strong impetus to the realization of the existing initiatives and commitments and launch concrete and specific global initiatives and measures, building on the decisions contained in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,⁵ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

12. *Reaffirms* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the comprehensive high-level midterm review, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of the participation of at least three government representatives from each least developed country in the review conference and at least two in the preparatory meeting of experts;

13. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States and invites the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional financial institutions to actively participate in the midterm review, at the highest possible level, and in its preparatory processes;

14. *Underlines* the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard decides to take the necessary measures to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and to mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity, and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study for a United Nations technology bank for the least developed countries,⁶ appreciates

⁵ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁶ [A/70/408](#).

the work done by the High-level Panel on the Technology Bank, to which the Office of the High Representative provided secretariat support, requests the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to fully operationalize the technology bank for the least developed countries by 2017, and seeks to promote synergies with the technology facilitation mechanism;

16. *Reiterates* its recommendation that the consultative mechanism specified in its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 be established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of the associated actions and the negotiation of their duration and phasing out for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, and that it be integrated with other relevant consultative processes and initiatives between the graduating country and its development partners;

17. *Invites* development partners to make available timely information about least developed country-specific support measures and related smooth transition measures in the areas of financial support, technical assistance and trade-related measures, including their time frames, characteristics and modalities;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a progress report on the implementation, the effectiveness and the added value of smooth transition measures, including initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the outcome of the comprehensive high-level midterm review and the implementation of the present resolution.
