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

Algeria: 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 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through 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 internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,³

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

* Reissued for technical reasons on 23 October 2012.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

³ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.



Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020⁴ and the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to least developed countries;⁵

2. *Expresses serious concern* that after a decade of steady economic growth, the least developed countries are facing significant challenges in sustaining their economic growth and their economies are projected to grow by an average of 4.1 per cent in 2012, which is far below the target of 7 per cent per annum as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and that this will have a significant impact on the implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Expresses concern* that the impact of the ongoing economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Notes* the progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, and calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the

⁴ A/67/88-E/2012/75 and Corr.1.

⁵ A/67/262.

least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

6. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including through implementing scaled-up substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely, long-term, predictable and flexible manner, and to integrate it into their programmes of work and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

7. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet done so to set up specific focal points or organizational units within their secretariat structures, with a view to ensuring consistent coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action at the agency level;

8. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul 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;

9. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

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

11. *Expresses serious concern* over the fall of official development assistance to least developed countries by 2 per cent in real terms in 2011, as well as the expected stagnation of the growth of core official development assistance between 2013 and 2015, and in this regard, while acknowledging the fulfilment of the official development assistance commitment of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income to least developed countries by some donor countries, calls upon the other donor countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitment to least developed countries without further delay and to align the allocation of official development assistance to the priorities of least developed countries, with a particular focus on productive capacity development;

12. *Recalls* the decision taken in the Istanbul Programme of Action, with respect to adopting, expanding and implementing investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, for its consideration at its sixty-ninth session, outlining the options and modalities of investment promotion regimes for least developed countries;

13. *Notes* the efforts made to address the debt problems of the least developed countries, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, expresses concern that the debt vulnerability of many least developed countries has increased markedly, with many of them in a situation of debt stress, or at high risk of debt stress, and in this regard, stresses the need to take effective measures to address the debt problems of the least developed countries;

14. *Reiterates* the call for necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the impasse in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, and underlines the need for ensuring timely and effective implementation and operationalization of existing commitments to least developed countries on a lasting basis, such as duty-free, quota-free market access and least developed country services waivers, as well as ensuring an early harvest of the development dividend to least developed countries;

15. *Underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

18. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

19. *Recognizes* the need for giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action and, in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and in this regard, calls upon the developed countries to review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

20. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,³ to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

21. *Stresses* the need for strengthened coordination and monitoring of and follow-up to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with a view

to ensuring effective and efficient implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the country, subregional, regional and global levels;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake necessary measures to institutionalize the Inter-Agency Consultative Group mechanism for least developed countries, within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as a standing inter-agency mechanism led by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to ensure necessary coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and also invites him, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as a standing item in the agenda of the Board;

23. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its responsibilities under its original mandate, there has been an increase in the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to the least developed countries, and in this regard underlines that the Office of the High Representative needs a substantial amount of resources, including extrabudgetary resources, in order to fulfil its increased responsibilities;

24. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and requests the Secretary-General to guarantee adequate resources for the Office in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

25. *Strongly urges* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to substantially increase their extrabudgetary contributions in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.