

**5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries  
Adoption of the Doha Programme of Action (2022-2031)  
17 March 2022**

**Explanation of Position by H.E. The Hon. Mitch Fifield,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the  
United Nations**

**As Delivered**

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Good morning Madam President and colleagues,

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of New Zealand and my own country, Australia.

At the outset, can I take the opportunity to thank our friends and colleagues, Ambassador Bob of Canada and Ambassador Rabab of Bangladesh, and to acknowledge their absolutely stalwart efforts in coordinating the preparatory process and negotiation of a strong new ten-year

We'd also like to express our immense gratitude to our good friend, Ambassador Alya of Qatar, for your country's generous support in hosting the LDC5 conference; and we so look forward to finally meeting together in Doha in 2023.

And finally, we extend our sincere thanks to the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, for its tireless work on behalf of countries in special situations.

Madam President,

Australia and New Zealand are staunchly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which

represent the agreed principles and values of the international development system, underpinned by human rights and international law. With eight years left, our focus must be on delivering the promise of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety, through concrete implementation.

the Sendai Framework, we must re-double our commitment to “

”. We need to keep front of mind that LDC’s vulnerability and risk levels often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters; it is critical that graduation processes build resilience by integrating disaster risk reduction into transition strategies.

In this connection, Australia is pleased to be participating in the new High-Level Panel to finalise a multidimensional vulnerability index. We strongly believe that this exercise will offer important lessons for the entire multilateral development system. And we look forward to valuable discussion on this at the forthcoming Global Platform on DRR in Indonesia, and at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR in Australia.

Madam President,

As we commence implementation of the new  , we must keep front of mind the catalytic impact gender equality can have on the achievement of sustainable development. We are pleased that the

  includes particular attention to the empowerment of   – which is vital to delivering better outcomes for all. And we are pleased it pays due regard to the issue of  , which, as we know, is fundamental to protection and promotion of sustainable development.

And, Madam President, finally, we would like to note that the effects of Russia’s unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine, which we condemn in the strongest possible terms, are far-reaching. As the Secretary-General has highlighted, this war is also an assault on the world’s most vulnerable people and countries with food, fuel, and fertiliser prices skyrocketing and supply

chains disrupted. Madam President, we call on Russia to cease its attacks on Ukraine and withdraw its forces from Ukrainian territory.

Thank you Madam President.