

ZERO DRAFT

come. Ultimately, this seriously compromises the ability of countries to graduate from the LDC category.

6. We recognize that the LDCs, currently consisting of 46 members and comprising about 14 per cent of the global population, are some of the poorest and most vulnerable in the world, accounting for only 1.3 per cent of global gross domestic product, 1.4 per cent of global foreign direct investment and just under 1 per cent of global merchandising exports.

7. We recognize that, despite many challenges and constraints, the LDCs represent an enormous human and natural resource potential for world economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security. Millions of their burgeoning youth and growing working age population offer extraordinary opportunities to become development leaders and the drivers of transformative change. It is imperative that actions for the LDC by all stakeholders aim at addressing the challenges in a sustainable manner and leverage the opportunities offered by new and emergent technologies based tools and solutions to catalyze the greatest multiplier effects on growth and development. Therefore, a strengthened global partnership that effectively addresses the special needs of the LDCs, will contribute to the cause of peace, prosperity, poverty

19. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Ebola crisis, the financial crisis and climate change have demonstrated that we live in a highly globalized and interconnected world, where a crisis or a virus in a small city of a country can spread to the whole world in a shortest span of time and have devastating impacts globally. Looking beyond crises and bearing in mind the core principles of the 2030 Agenda, it is our shared responsibility to ensure that no country or person is left behind and reach the furthest behind first.

20. We will undertake actions to leverage the opportunities offered by the 226 million youth population in LDCs, who can be a real agent of change for structural transformation through productive capacity building in agricultural, manufacturing and services sectors; building and maintaining resilient infrastructure to improve movement of goods and services; expanding energy access and broadband connectivity; tapping into emerging technologies (bridge the gap with technological equalities, specifically using hands-on training, and capacity development); harnessing the economic and health gains that come with educating and employing girls and women at levels equal to boys and men; and setting up social care systems that relieve women of the unpaid care work burden.

21. We are committed to building a stronger and multifaceted resilience system in the LDCs. With the support of the international community, LDCs need to design systems, including infrastructure in transportation and communications, energy and ICT, supply chains, economic, financial and public health systems, that are dynamic, smart and resilient. Such actions have the potential to make the national economic system stronger and more resilient against any future shocks and ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation as well as achievement of the SDGs.

22. We affirm that the multidimensional nature of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals requires the involvement of all stakeholders at all levels – local, national, international – with solutions that are context-appropriate, respond to the needs and rights of populations, in particular those furthest behind, and tap into the full diversity of existing knowledge and experience. It is, in fact, encouraging that national and local governments, civil society, academia and other stakeholders have engaged with the Sustainable Development Goals process and are developing innovative approaches and practices. International financial institutions and several central and national development banks have started to better reflect the Goals as a whole in their strategies and policies.

23. We note with concern that the International Support Measures that have been put in place are not sufficient to address the wide range of needs that exist in the LDCs including the new and emerging ones, and we urge the international community to fulfil their existing commitments and push beyond them to provide more and effective support measures for the LDCs that are new and additional to meet their huge funding gaps in meeting the SDGs.

24. We reaffirm our commitment to a comprehensive, result-oriented, enhanced, quantifiable, forward looking and coherent renewed and strengthened global partnership for LDCs. We also reaffirm our commitments to support the LDCs through, inter alia, fulfilling all internationally agreed goals and targets related to official development assistance, market access, debt relief, technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity-building. These commitments must be met, and action must be taken beyond existing commitments to bring about transformational change in LDCs. The United Nations system, including its specialized agencies as well as the

World Bank Group and IMF, provide technical support, assistance and policy advice to all priority areas for the LDCs, and this support will be improved including through additional concessional finance and the coordination between agencies and departments, using approaches such as the Integrated National Financing Frameworks.

25. We affirm that the national and local governments play a very important role in articulating and implementing the policies and programmes that will support a sustainable future that leaves no one behind. National parliaments will have a great role to play in enacting legislation and allocating funds that serve all to leave no one behind, as well as holding governments to account for the commitments they have made.

26. The Program of Action will have six key focus areas for Action as follows:

- I. Investing in people in LDCs: Eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind
- II. Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- III. Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity
- IV. Enhancing International trade of least developed countries and regional integration
- V. Addressing climate change, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic, and building resilience against future V K R F N V x x
- VI. Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated J O R E D O S D U W Q H U V K L S V D tools for risk-informed sustainable development - A march towards sustainable graduation.

I. Investing in people in LDCs: Eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind x x

27. We recognize that the large youth and working age population of LDCs, is the most important asset for their development. It is estimated that between 2020 and 2030, the population of the LDCs will increase by 256 million reaching it to 1.3 billion people.

28. We are concerned that poverty remains a key challenge for LDCs and even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was estimated that nearly 30 per cent of the population in LDCs would remain in extreme poverty by 2030. The compounding negative impact of the crisis caused by COVID19 in LDCs suggests an upward trend in extreme poverty.

well-educated population, with the knowledge and skills needed for productive capacity building and full participation in the decision making process are crucial to achieving sustainable development. However, LDCs still face challenges in ensuring universal access to quality education and health care and their vulnerabilities and limited capacities exacerbate the impact of external shocks such as COVID

Achieving universal access to quality education

38. Despite progress in increasing enrolment rates for primary education, 16.2 per cent of

45. We commit to supporting the LDCs to access digital equipment, including low-cost laptops or other devices, as well as educational radio and television programmes and the distribution of equipment such as radios and textbooks to the poorest and marginalized households, especially for girls. We further commit to supporting large-scale national efforts to utilize technology in support of remote learning and online education.

46. We will enhance interaction, collaboration and exchange programmes of students as well as share scientific studies and research papers between academic institutions of LDCs and the rest of the world. We will significantly increase the number of scholarships to LDCs and invite, higher education institutes to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from LDCs, in particular in the fields of science, technology, engineering, medicines and business administration in developed countries and other developing countries.

47. We will establish an online university for LDCs with high academic excellence and international standard and global recognition of its certification, primarily dedicated to teaching graduate and post-graduate studies on STEM for citizens of LDCs and graduated countries. In this regard, we invite the development partners to host this university and provide predictable financing to fully cover tuition fees and other expenses of the students related to their digital access and reading materials ensuring 50-50 gender balance and we request the Secretary-General to submit a report in full consultation with LDCs and their development partners as well relevant UN entities to the General-Assembly for its consideration at its 77th Session in outlining the modalities, terms of references and its sustainable funding sources.

Empowerment of women, girls and youth to address inequality and drive economic growth

48. Women and girls continue to face barriers such as lack of access to education, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels, and are subjected to harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage; and gender-based violence. Investments are required to provide

51. We commit to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation as well as all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

59. We reaffirm the decision of the Council for TRIPS on the Extension of the Transition Period Under Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement for LDCs Members for Certain Obligations With Respect to Pharmaceutical Products until 1 January 2033, and commit to providing financial and technical support to LDCs through technology transfer as obliged under Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement with a view to enabling LDCs to produce life-saving medicines including the vaccine for COVID-19. We call on WTO members to extend the same benefits for twelve years for countries graduated from LDC category.

60. We commit to providing necessary support to LDCs to ensure birth registration for all newborns in LDCs and provide a national identity or social security number to them.

Investing in youth

61. In 2020, 66.9 per cent of the population was below 30 years old. By 2030 one in five of the youth in the world will be born in the LDCs. In 2019, more than one in five of the world's youth were not in employment, education or training (NEET), almost unchanged since 2005. Since young women were already twice as likely to be jobless and not in education nor training than young men, and as women have been disproportionately pushed into inactivity during

78. Many LDCs have made progress in governance in the past decade. However, more needs to be done and several countries are still in conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2018, 33 million forcibly displaced people originated from LDCs, which is a growing problem acting as a drag on governance appraisals. The average e-government development index developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the delivery of public services in LDCs increased from 0.23 in 2010 to 0.34 in 2020 but remains lower than the world average of 0.6.

79.

86. Twenty-four of the 46 LDCs had active conflicts in 2019. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the link between peace, security, stability, and sustainable development. Peace, security, development, human rights, and humanitarian efforts are complementary and need to reinforce one another. Supporting and building partnerships with conflict affected LDCs, through sustained and predictable resources, remains a critical step in achieving peaceful and inclusive societies.

87. **Targets:** Build durable peace and ensure stability, security, and sustainable and inclusive development in LDCs.

Foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence

We agree to take the following actions:

90 We must redouble our efforts to resolve and or prevent conflict and commit to

domestic product was 0.6 per cent or less between 2011-2017, compared with around 2 per cent of developed countries ¶ P X F K @ B U H H U gross domestic product. Citizens of LDCs filed only 1,536 patents in 2018. As a share of patents globally, the figure is almost zero. The LDCs published only 11 journal articles for every 1 million people in 2018.

Key Action Areas

Access to modern technologies for sustainable development. Building human capital, infrastructure, and institutions to reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

96 We express concern that LDCs with limited

101 We agree to support LDCs to build capacity to scale up the deployment of and utilization

developed country members to provide incentives for their companies to promote the transfer of technology to least-developed countries

108 Targets: Significantly improve STI infrastructure in LDCs by 2031.

Ensure universal access to and meaningful use of internet by all in all the LDCs by 2030.

Significantly reduce the cost of using the internet.

We agree to take the following actions:

109 We commit to bridging the STI divide and provide financial and technical support and technology transfer to LDCs including through south-south and triangular cooperation to ensure that all LDCs can engage effectively in low emission and climate resilient development that will

focused, and development agencies to facilitate technology transfer, exploit research and innovation and build the necessary capacities and technical competencies of LDCs.

117 We call upon the development partners to enhance their support to LDCs to build their broadband infrastructure, connectivity, access and productive use; incentivize investors to invest

123 We commit to promoting and supporting the formulation of national strategies aimed at increasing diversification, value addition, efficiency, and competitiveness in the manufacturing, agriculture, and services sectors; and call for enhancing financial and technical support from development partners, international organizations, and multilateral development banks to facilitating the implementation of these strategies.

124 We will create a conducive policy environment for industrial diversification and value addition, including strengthening efforts to accelerate capital accumulation, building institutional

with access to clean fuel for cooking as low as 7% and several LDCs have overall access to clean cooking equal to or less than 5%.

138 Targets: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services

Double generation of electricity per capita in LDCs by 2030

Double the share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption in LDCs by 2030

Double international public finance in support of clean and renewable energy; and enhanced capacities in energy production, trade, and distribution in LDCs in line with SDG7

By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all

Enhance technology transfer to LDCs to accelerate transition to clean and renewable energy

We agree to take the following actions:

139 We commit to doubling international public finance to meet the urgent need for investments in power generation, along with grid reinforcement and upgrading of technology, in order to provide modern, reliable and sustainable energy to all through improved generation, transmission and distribution facilities and enhanced energy efficiency in LDCs. We also commit to providing scaled up and targeted support to LDCs in the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including the global plan of action for the Decade.

140 We commit

144 We call upon LDCs to create enabling environment including appropriate regulatory frameworks and policy reforms to facilitate private sector investment as well as promoting attractive project pipelines. We also call upon development partners, MDBs, other international and regional organizations, including IRENA, International Solar Alliance and other relevant stakeholders to substantially increase their investments in LDCs, through simplified access process, in developing sustainable, reliable, modern, inclusive and equitable energy systems, including, inter alia, by strengthening energy systems through cross-border grid connections, as appropriate, and to consider incorporating decentralized renewable energy solutions in energy planning, as appropriate, and recognize that energy transition will take different paths in differen1c-13() TJET

trading costs, limited human capital, limited ICT capacities and institutional constraints have limited the growth of the private sector in LDCs.

151 **Target:** Create an enabling environment for private sector development.

category for a fix period of time of at least twelve years after their graduation to ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

164 We commit to rejecting vaccine nationalism and protectionism, fully meeting our transparency obligations on trade measures and meaningfully improving access for all countries, especially LDCs, to COVID-19 vaccines, including through facilitating technology transfer within the framework of multilateral rules, so as to encourage research and innovation while at the same time allowing licensing agreements and any other arrangements that help scale up manufacturing.

Preferential rules of origin and non-tariff barriers

165 We note that considerable progress has been made towards ensuring that preferential rules of origin are simple and transparent and contribute to facilitating market access of imports from LDCs. World Trade Organization members adopted two decisions on preferential rules of origin for LDCs at the Ministerial Conferences in Bali in 2013 and in Nairobi in 2015. Almost all preference-granting members (20 out of 22) have submitted notifications of their preferential rules of origin requirements. We stress that various non-tariff barriers and sanitary and phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade measures, including private standards, are of great concern for market

170 We call upon the WTO members to take concrete measures including meaningful preferences for LDCs services and service suppliers in accordance with the WTO decisions in

185 We call for correcting and preventing trade restrictions and distortions in world

199 We commit to supporting LDCs efforts in promoting subregional and regional cooperation, including export promotion and improving regional connectivity through trade-

and support the provisions contained in international agreements on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Key Action Areas

Building sustainable, equitable and resilient recovery from COVID-19

206 On average, the projection suggests that the LDCs are expected to take three to five years or more to recover to their pre-crisis level of gross domestic product per capita. The persistent challenges posed by climate change will further deteriorate the recovery efforts.

207 **Target:** Declare vaccine as a global public good and provide sufficient COVID-19 vaccines immediately to vaccinate all eligible citizens of LDCs free of cost

- Ensure technology transfer to harness production capacities of vaccines of LDCs

- Provide \$5 billion as direct budgetary support to LDCs for social protection system

- Ensure widespread testing and tracing, maintaining adequate stocks of therapeutics and protective gears and ventilations

- Provide adequate support to build health infrastructure of the LDCs to tackle the current and future shocks

countries as direct budgetary support and to increase the resources of relevant regional and multilateral emergency financing facilities and to ease the conditions of access to these facilities.

213 We commit to establishing and strengthening social protection mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable populations, including provision of direct support in the form of cash or food to at least 350 million people living in extreme poverty in LDCs. In this regard, we call upon the development partners to provide \$5 billion allocation in emergency assistance as fresh funds for cash transfer to the extreme poor people living in LDCs.

214 We agree to ensure that stimulus measures are aligned with and contribute to fast recovery from the pandemic and building resilience in LDCs, including among others: nature-based solutions, including conserving and restoring natural ecosystems and biodiversity; sustainable agriculture; resilience of infrastructure and the built environment; sustainable finance instruments such as green bonds and Sustainable Development Goal bonds; incentives for private investment in sustainable opportunities such as: affordable renewable energies; and safe, smart and sustainable mobility.

Climate adaptation and building resilience

215 While LDCs have made some progress with the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and in implementing the Sendai Framework, they lack the resources and capacity to address critical needs. Adaptation in agriculture, manufacturing, services and livestock is of prime importance for LDCs, and has major implications for food security, livelihoods especially of the most vulnerable segments of society, and employment. Water resources already face multiple pressures and are highly sensitive to climate change

Provide 50 per cent of the total share of climate finance provided by all developed countries and multilateral development banks to adaptation and resilience and 50 per cent of the adaptation to particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs

Additional and increased funding for implementation of national adaptation plans of LDCs under the Green Climate Fund and other funds

We agree to take the following actions:

227 We agree that donor countries and multilateral, regional and national development banks will significantly increase the volume, quality and predictability of their finance for adaptation priorities identified in national and subnational and sectoral adaptation plans and building resilience in LDCs, and to systematically collect and publish such information.

228 We reaffirm the collective developed country goal to jointly mobilize \$100 billion per year from public and private sources, through to 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation.

229 We welcome the decisions of the Board of the Green Climate Fund to aim for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation over time on a grant equivalent basis and a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs. In the same vein, we call for providing 50 per cent of the total climate finance provided by all developed countries and multilateral development banks to adaptation and resilience and 50 per cent of these funds for particularly vulnerable countries, including LDCs.

230 We commit to substantially enhancing funding to all climate-related financing windows including the least developed countries Fund (LDCF), the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and to substantially enhance access to all these funds by LDCs. We also commit to simplifying the access procedures for climate finance for LDCs and supporting the LDCs to develop bankable projects.

231 We agree to support the development in LDCs of programmatic approaches for dealing with adaptation including on nature-based solutions, adaptation in cities, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities and systems such as youth, indigenous communities, gender, and essential climate resilience programmes around food systems, water resources, health services, living spaces/settlements and critical infrastructure. By creating a knowledge repository, a portal to capture, process, analyze and present for a structured framework to support for climate and other LDC priorities

232 We commit to enhancing regional coobfpss,

234 We agree to increase our investments in prevention and risk reduction, including risk-informed and resilient infrastructure and public services; the adoption of legislation, policies and standards that regulate and incentivize investors and companies to adopt a risk-informed approach; and for monetary and regulatory authorities to incorporate the impact of disaster and climate risks into regulatory and policy frameworks.

235 We commit to significantly scaling-up existing catastrophe-triggered financial instruments and initiatives such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility and African Risk Capacity and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative, as well as developing and enhancing instruments and derivatives that provide risk insurance and guarantees for where they are most needed, such as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and low-income households.

236 We commit to providing financial and technical assistance and facilitate technology transfer to LDCs 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 the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

237 We call for action by the private sector, including bank and institutional investors, to support environmental, social, and corporate governance issues as well as take climate change into consideration in their investment decisions in LDCs.

**VI. Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partners tools
for risk-informed sustainable development - A march towards sustainable graduation**

238 We acknowledge that LDCs are largely dependent on public resources to finance sustainable development needs and ensure a smooth transition from the least developed countries category. Available resources ±domestic and external, public, and private - have not been sufficient to meet growing investment and spending needs. The high reliance of LDCs on

Support for domestic resource mobilization and fight of illicit financial flows

241 We acknowledge that the low tax-to-gross domestic product ratios of LDCs are due to their economic structures, high poverty rates, weak tax administration and the nature of their tax

248 We commit to substantially reducing illicit financial flows by 2030 in order to help LDCs to mobilize resources, including through increased international cooperation to stem corruption and identify, freeze and recover stolen assets and return them to their countries of origin, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to developing their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation, facilitate customs services and investigate and prosecute offences to contribute to the success of efforts to deal with illicit financial flows.

Traditional and innovative sources of finance to meet the funding gaps in least developed countries

249 We note with concern that official development assistance to LDCs by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members declined in real terms over the past decade and the average share of gross national income provided as ODA to LDCs from DAC donors declined from 0.1 per cent in 2011 to 0.09 per cent in 2019. At the same time ODA remained crucial for financing investments for sustainable development in LDCs, while innovative sources of finance, such as blended finance, remained limited in these countries. There is a clear need for much

255 We urge development partners to recapitalize multilateral, regional and national development banks and accelerate the timetable for agreeing on a fresh replenishment of funds, including concessional windows of MDBs and immediate steps should be taken by the international community to significantly expand concessional financing and deliver it to LDCs through simplified procedures.

256 We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We will align activities with national priorities of LDCs, including by reducing fragmentation, accelerating the untying of aid. We will promote country ownership and results orientation and strengthen country systems, use programme-based approaches where appropriate, strengthen partnerships for development, reduce transaction costs and increase transparency and mutual accountability. We will make development more effective and predictable by providing LDCs with regular and timely indicative information on planned support in the medium term.

257 We stress that the innovative sources of financing, including blended finance, should be additional, substantial, predictable, with preferential rates especially tailored to LDCs and disbursed in a manner that respects the priorities and special needs of LDCs and does not unduly burden them. This should include expanding ODA allocations to include flexible financing that can be used as first loss, concessional, or de-risking capital to attract additional resources from the private sector to SDG-aligned investments that can scale to address the needs of LDCs. We decide to establish a dedicated financing mechanism that delivers catalytic investment capital for MSMEs and small investment projects in LDCs and graduated countries to mobilize sustainable private investments that advance the SDGs and act as a crisis facility.

258 We welcome the agreement by G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to support a new \$650 billion allocation of IMF Special Drawing Rights. We invite the IMF to allocate at least \$ 50 billion SDRs to LDCs to provide enhanced liquidity and to further support health needs, including vaccinations, and to help enable greener, more robust recoveries from the pandemic.

259 We call on official creditors to make long-term sustainable finance available to LDCs and offer more fixed-interest lending at low interest rates.

Foreign Direct Investment

260 We note with concern that the FDI flows to LDCs had already been on a declining trend since 2015, reaching \$21 billion, or 1.4 per cent of world foreign direct investment in 2019. COVID-19 accelerated the decline of FDIs to LDCs, which remains heavily concentrated in the extractive industries. Several LDCs have undertaken steps to facilitate investment, such as the acceleration of approval procedures, an increased use of online tools, a reduction of fees and an automatic renewal of permits.

261 **Target:** Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for LDCs.

We agree to take the following actions:

268 We commit to enhancing efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in LDCs to enhance sustainable upstream and downstream debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained.

269 We urge official creditors, including international financial institutions, to include state-contingent clauses in public debt contracts to automatize standstills in times of crisis, and to set a precedent for private markets, including through granting suspension of debt service.

270 We invite creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of debt instruments, such as debt swap initiatives, for sustainable development and climate action.

Remittances

271 We note that remittances to LDCs have increased significantly over the past decade but declined in 2020 due to COVID-19. At the same time costs of remittances to LDCs have remained disproportionately high.

272 **Target:** Reduce cost of remittances to maximum 3 per cent of the amount of remittances by 2030.

We agree to take the following actions:

273 We will work to improve the access to, usage and quality of financial services to lower the cost of remittances to LDCs.

274 We agree to provide accessible information on remittance transfer costs by provider and channel, such as comparison websites, in order to increase the transparency and competition on the remittance transfer market, and promote financial literacy and inclusion of migrants and their families through education and training.

275 We agree to put in place specific incentive programmes to ensure that remittances are used for long-

loss of LDC specific support measures compounded by the negative social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

277 We aim to ensure an incentives-based international support structure to graduating and graduated least developed countries, including support for their smooth transition by development and trading partners, as well as the UN system, to make graduation sustainable and ensure post-graduation development momentum and achievements of SDGs.

278 **Targets:** Enable 15 additional LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2031.

Improve the scope and use of smooth transition measures and incentives for all graduating LDCs.

Provide specific support measures to graduated countries for making the graduation sustainable and irreversible.

We agree to take the following actions:

279 We emphasize that a successful transition out of the LDC category needs to be based on a national smooth transition strategy, elaborated by each graduating country. We urge development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue their support for the implementation of smooth transition strategies so as to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance, aid for trade or other technical and financial assistance provided. [based on MTR, 46 second part] This includes the need for better planning and coordination of transition finance by ODA providers both during preparatory period and in the post-graduation phase.

280 . We request development and trading partners to extend to graduated countries the LDC-specific trade preferences and technical assistance and capacity building programmes for a period of 12 years after their graduation from the LDC status. We also invite all members of the

283 We recognize the need for enhanced support to countries before and after graduation, through appropriate predictable and additional incentives and support measures, including in the following areas:

- Technical assistance for preparing and implementing a smooth transition strategy, including capacity development and technical assistance for analysis and identification of support needs

- Enhanced availability of credit ratings and risk management measures, including through the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

- Legal assistance to negotiate market access after trade preferences that are granted based on least developed countries status end

- Technical assistance to build and strengthen their intellectual property rights systems to enable them to comply with obligations related to intellectual property after graduation.

- Provide expanded and specific access provisions for the climate vulnerable -graduated countries to the dedicated funds for tackling adverse impacts of climate-change

- Provide access to concessional funds of IFIs and regional development banks by redefining eligibility threshold based on multidimensional criteria beyond income only measures

 - Provide access to vertical funds such as GAVI by redefining upward eligibility threshold

 - Extending access to Aid for Trade and Technology Bank for ten years after graduation

284 We welcome the work of the UN Inter-

ensure its effective operation with a view to achieving the SDGs and building resilience of the graduating and graduated countries against current and future shocks.

293 National-

305 We invite the Office of the High Representative for the LDC, LLDC, and SIDS to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for accelerated implementation of this Programme of Action identifying specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders with a view to ensuring that the commitments in favor of LDCs lead to concrete deliverables that would facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action and help LDCs achieve the SDGs.

306 The Office of the High Representative for the LDC, LLDC, and SIDS should strengthen its functions to:

and convene meetings of the focal points biannually to share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the Programme of Action and SDGs into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up; network among the peers; and better understand existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models.

309 With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of Office of the High Representative for the LDC, LLDC, and SIDS and strengthening its capabilities and its effectiveness to support the LDCs, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to LDCs, we request the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional