

UN Environment Programme submission on potential elements for the zero draft of the  
Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

Want<sup>1</sup> and the importance of environmental dimension for sustainable development. Environmental sustainability is intrinsically linked to the socio-economic development of countries and must be addressed systematically and holistically if any economic and social gains are to be made and sustained. Incorporation of environmental perspectives in development plans and programmes is even more important in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which have particular vulnerabilities and challenges.

It is suggested to introduce language on green economy with reference to the Paragraph (62) – The Future We Want<sup>2</sup>, such as “*Promote the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor*”.

Although climate change, nature loss and pollution are mentioned in the paragraph (12) of the Draft, it is suggested to add an integrated introductory emphasis on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution as this profound concern on the crisis is established in global



waste<sup>6</sup>.

Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) should also be a priority. Most businesses in the world are SMEs; most formal jobs are generated by SMEs, which create 7 out of 10 jobs<sup>7</sup>. Given their strong roots in local communities, SMEs can be influential agents of change and innovation.

It is broadly recognized that GDP does not accurately capture the wealth nor progress of countries. LDCs could greatly benefit from developing systems to map, monitor and integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services in decisions. Systems for natural capital accounting can capture natural capital as important assets for future development needs to be protected and invested in. Reference should be made to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) adopted by the 52nd United Nations Statistical Commission.

### 3.2.1 Transport

Investments should be made in facilitating public and low emission transport avoiding “lock in” in old and polluting options harmful for public health and the environment.

Regulatory measures are essential for import of used vehicles. This to address key concerns regarding pollution and carbon emissions of used vehicles, their quality and safety, energy consumption, and the costs of operating used vehicles<sup>8</sup>.

Key focus area VI. Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools for risk-informed sustainable development - A march towards sustainable graduation.

6.6 Extension of international support measures to graduating and graduated least developed countries to make graduation sustainable and irreversible