

Remarks

by

Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox

Acting High Representative

**for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries
and Small Island Developing States**

Closing Remarks

UNHQ, GA Hall

Your Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi and Minister for Defense, and Chair of the Least Developed Countries

Your Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and President of the Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Today is an important day for the Least Developed Countries of the world.

For two years they have suffered more than most during the pandemic. And for decades before that, they have struggled to get their needs fully recognized by the international community.

Now the war in Ukraine adds yet more uncertainty, with growing insecurity, including food insecurity.

And the dedication of the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Committee, the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Canada.

So many meetings had to be held virtually but now we see the fruits of intense discussions.

But all of us are clear about one thing. The value of this document

Parliamentarians.

The private sector.

And civil society.

Everyone that had a key role to play in shaping the Programme of Action, now has a role to play in delivering its outcomes.

We should also listen to the growing voice of youth in LDCs – it is their future that is at stake.

The whole UN system is committed to implement the Doha Programme. Agencies will bring their expertise in the 6 priority areas for action to the table.

Qatar as the host country has put its full support behind the preparations for this Conference, which started today in New York, but will continue next March in Doha.

We are all grateful for the generous support from Qatar, and count on their continued leadership and support for the decade of the Doha Programme of Action.

We can now look forward with confidence to finally gathering in Doha and enjoying the welcome you have been preparing so patiently.

My Office, in collaboration with the UN system, has already started work on some key projects identified in the Programme of Action.

The Graduation Support Facility, now called iGRAD, will deliver enhanced support for graduation. It will provide advisory services to help countries prepare for smoothly graduating from the category. And support their efforts into sustainable development

I want to thank you all for the commitment and energy that you have brought to the process so far.

And I urge you to start implementation of the DPoA immediately.

So that when we gather in Doha next year, we can talk about the road already travelled, as well as the journey ahead.

Thank you.