



General Assembly

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Agenda item 23 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2010

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/65/439/Add.1)]

65/171. Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,² adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,³

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005,⁴

Recalling its resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008, in which it decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011,

Recalling also its resolution 64/213 of 21 December 2009 on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which it decided to convene the Conference in the first half of 2011 for a duration of five days,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/27 of 23 July 2010 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 27 September 2010,

Recalling the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,⁵ as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries,

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

² Ibid., chap. II.

³ See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ A/61/117, annex I.



Recalling also its resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 59/209 of 20 December 2004, in which it stressed and reiterated the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from least developed country status, in order to avoid disruption to their development progress,

Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁶ in which Heads of State and Government acknowledged the significant constraints and structural impediments faced by the least developed countries in their development efforts, expressed grave concern that such countries are lagging behind in meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in that context, inter alia, looked forward to the Conference, which would further invigorate the international partnership to address the special needs of these countries,

Emphasizing that the Conference should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General⁷ on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010;²

2. *Decides* to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011 at the highest possible level, in line with the mandate specified by the General Assembly in resolution 63/227, in view of the critical importance of the Conference;

3. *Also decides* to reschedule the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and to hold it in New York from 4 to 8 April 2011, for five working days;

4. *Welcomes* the progress being made in the preparatory process of the Conference, and takes note of the outcome of the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting, held in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January 2010, and the outcome of the Africa regional preparatory meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 March 2010;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the Ministerial Meeting on the theme “Enhancing the mobilization of financial resources for the development of the least developed countries”, held in Lisbon on 2 and 3 October 2010;

6. *Looks forward* to the Ministerial Meeting on the theme “Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South cooperation for the development of the least developed countries”, to be hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi early in 2011;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

8. *Also welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

⁶ See resolution 65/1.

⁷ A/65/80-E/2010/77.

9. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors at the Conference and during its preparatory process, and in this regard stresses the need for their active participation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, within existing resources, a day of informal interactive hearings with civil society actors in due time before the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, in consultation with Member States, in particular the least developed countries, the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the Civil Society Steering Committee and the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate;

12. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Conference to preside jointly over the informal interactive hearings, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as an Assembly document prior to the Conference;

13. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to consult with the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the Civil Society Steering Committee, the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and Member States, in particular the least developed countries, as appropriate, concerning the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that may participate in the informal interactive hearings with civil society, in the meetings of the Civil Society Forum of the Conference and in the Conference itself;

14. *Invites* all development partners and other relevant stakeholders, including Member States, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, parliaments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and the private sector, to continue to remain fully engaged in the preparatory process of the Conference, including through the organization of thematic pre-conference and parallel events, in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Conference, in line with its previous resolutions in this regard;

15. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the effective participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself;

16. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries, and, while expressing its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions, urges Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner in order to support the substantive preparations for the Conference and the participation of representatives of each least developed country in the preparatory process of the Conference and to defray the cost of the participation of two representatives from each least developed

country in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Office of the High Representative to intensify mobilization efforts to ensure sufficient extrabudgetary funding from all possible sources for the preparatory process of the Conference and for the Conference itself and to provide information on the status of the Trust Fund;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance advocacy and public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and significance;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Conference a ten-year comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 identifying, inter alia, lessons learned and best practices as well as structural constraints and handicaps encountered, resource requirements and resource gaps in achieving the set objectives of the Programme of Action;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the outcome of the Conference;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the national transition strategies prepared by Governments of graduating countries and the support measures provided by development and trading partners for the States that have graduated or are graduating from least developed country status, in line with resolution 59/209, including on the possible need and likely ways to reinforce the smooth transition;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, a sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries”.

*69th plenary meeting
20 December 2010*