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**Video statement**

**By**

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**The Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries:**

**Human Rights Related Challenges and Opportunities**

**Side event to commemorate the adoption of the**

**Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries**

[approx. 5 minutes - 509 words]

Amid multiple cascading and interlinked global crises on a magnitude we have not seen before, in March 2022, Member States adopted the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries.

This agreement is a renewed partnership between LDCs and their development partners.

It holds the promise of charting a course for the LDCs to recover from the pandemic and its impacts, address climate change, and reset LDCs on a pathway to achieving SDGs.

The DPoA is the outcome of a 2-year negotiating process bringing together the contributions of all stakeholders and covering all aspects of sustainable development.

The important role of all human rights, including the right to development, flows throughout this milestone agreement for the LDCs.

The DPoA places particular emphasis on the important role of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls - for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development for all.

It commits to expanding women and girls’ access to education, online services, health, job and economic opportunities, social protection, and participation in all aspects of decision-making and public life.

The DPoA acknowledges the importance of core international human rights instruments. It highlights the contribution of good governance at all levels, strong institutions, democracy, the rule of law, equal access to justice, and also independent judicial institutions, reducing corruption, transparency and accountability.

The DPoA recommits to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving the full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status.

The DPoA acknowledges that peace, security, development, human rights and humanitarian efforts are complementary and need to reinforce one another.

So with these robust human rights underpinnings, the DPoA offers an ambitious set of goals and targets for making progress towards graduation from the category, including exploring an important collection of “deliverables”, ranging from an online university for the LDCs, an international investment support centre for the LDCs, to multi-hazard early warning systems and a system food stockholdings.

In closing, allow me to extend to you an invitation to the Fifth UN Conference for the LDCs, or LDC5.

We are now officially in the implementation phase of the DPoA, and only six months away from LDC5, which will take place from 5-9 March 2023 in Doha.

LDC5 offers the opportunity to issue a clarion call at the highest level for rapid and full implementation of the DPoA, and to mobilize resources, build new partnerships and provide political impetus for initiatives.

Please mark you calendars for this once-in-a-decade milestone event for the development community.

Building the momentum for Doha begins now, and at today’s side event.

With that, I wish you a productive discussion on this critical topic.