

**Opening Statement by**

**H.E. Dr. Hend Abdalrahman AL-MUFTAH**

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva

At the Side-event to commemorate the adoption of the

Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

Theme: “Promoting Development and Human Rights in

Least Developed Countries”

**Thursday 15 September 2022**

**Palais des Nations, Room XXV**

**Excellences,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

It gives me a great pleasure to make opening remarks at this important event, and I begin by thanking the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its efforts in organizing this event and ensuring its success.

**Distinguished participants,**

At the outset I would like to confirm my country’s unwavering support and solidarity with Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and its keenness to make all possible efforts that would support these countries to achieve their legitimate aspirations of development and progress.

Based on the State of Qatar’s foreign policy that attaches great importance to partnership with the international community, my country has had the honor to chair the Fifth United Nations Conference for the Least Developed Countries, which we will gladly host the meetings of its second part in Doha from 5 to 9 March 2023.

We look forward with all hope that this conference will be an opportunity to meet the needs and priorities of developing countries and support their efforts towards achieving lasting development during the next decade.

And I take the opportunity of this side-event to invite and urge all countries and stakeholders, international organizations, including Geneva based organizations, to actively participate in this conference, mobilize their energies for its success, and strive to implement its outcome within a framework of equitable international partnerships that enhance the capabilities of the least developed countries and harness its full potential as called for by the Doha Programme of Action, and in line with the seventeenth Goal of the SDGs.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The significance of this side-event, which commemorates the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, is the fact that it is being organized at a critical time when the whole world is trying hard to emerge from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has greatly affected development efforts all over the world, especially in the least developed countries, whose economic and development strategies have greatly encountered extraordinary challenges and difficulties. We hope the conference in Doha will be an ample opportunity to address all these challenges and valid concerns.

**Distinguished participants,**

The pledge to “Leave no one behind” is the central pledge that UN member States made at the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This commitment means taking all possible actions to eradicate poverty, end inequalities, confront discrimination and take necessary measures to reach the furthest behind first.

This promise is not only applicable to people, but also to States.

It means that implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should take into account specific needs of vulnerable countries, including least developed countries, so that they can build sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economic growth.

We look forward that the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs will enjoy widespread follow-up and implementation, and will serve as a roadmap to achieving the pledge of “leaving no one behind.”

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I conclude by reaffirming my country’s full commitment to continue its cooperation and solidarity with the LDCs, and I look forward to seeing you in Doha in March 2023 for the second part of the 5th UN Conference on the LDCs.

I thank you.