

Resolution

2009/31 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,²

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which it decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits”, a regular sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,

Reaffirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2009, on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”,³

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2004 on the theme “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”,⁴

Recognizing the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,⁵

Taking note of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of 2008,⁶

Recalling its resolution 2008/37 of 25 July 2008 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010,

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

Recalling further the declaration⁷ adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development,

¹ A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/64/3/Rev.1), chap. III.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 49.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 61/1.

Emphasizing that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;⁸

2. *Notes* the economic and social progress of many least developed countries in recent years, which has led to the fact that a number of countries are proceeding towards graduation from the list of least developed countries and that some of them are on track to achieving the growth and investment targets of the Programme of Action by 2010;

3. *Remains concerned*, however, about the uneven and insufficient progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010¹⁴⁶ at a time when the international community has embarked on the preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of its implementation, and stresses the urgent need to address areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in many least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* that the number of people living in extreme poverty remains significantly high in the least developed countries, while an increasing number of people are at risk of malnutrition, in particular children and women, and recognizes that there are important linkages between development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

5. *Expresses concern* about the severe impact of the global economic and financial crisis on developing countries and recognizes that the social and economic progress achieved during recent years, particularly on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is now threatened in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and resolves to strive to combine short-term responses to meet the immediate impact of the financial and economic crisis, particularly on the most vulnerable countries, with medium- and long-term responses;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners, in view of the global crises, to assist the least developed countries in respect of translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities and to collaborate with and provide support to, as appropriate, the relevant national development forums and follow-up mechanisms;

7. *Reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

8. *Underlines* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development

⁸ A/64/80-E/2009/79.

partners must be guided by an integral approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions encompassing:

- (a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;
- (b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;
- (c) Building human and institutional capacities;
- (d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;
- (e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;
- (f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;
- (g) Mobilizing financial resources;

9. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management;

10. *Urges* development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

11. *Reiterates* its invitation to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to the graduated country and to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing them in a phased manner;

12. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offers of the Governments of Austria and Turkey to host the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011;

13. *Reiterates* the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 63/227 that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would be the focal point for the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in accordance with mandates given in Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

14. *Reiterates also its invitation* to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures for the preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as well as for the implementation of the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁹ in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

16. *Requests also* the Secretary-General to ensure the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system in the preparatory process for the Conference in a coordinated and coherent manner, inter alia, by making use of the existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system;

17. *Reiterates* the request of the General Assembly that the organizations of the United Nations system provide, and *invites* the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide, necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to the Conference itself;

18. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund established for the participation of the least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Council, and expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions;

19. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Council, invites donor countries to continue to support the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by contributing, in an adequate and timely manner, to the special trust fund, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced and to provide information on the status of the trust fund;

20. *Reiterates also* its request to the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure follow-up to their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

*45th plenary meeting
31 July 2009*

⁹ See A/62/322.