

**Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. At the outset I would like to congratulate you and your Bureau members upon your election to lead the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee. The Group of 77 and China is confident that the capacities and capabilities you bring together in this Bureau will lead the committee successfully through the process towards the Fifth UN Conference on the Least developed Countries, to be convened in Doha, Qatar, 23-27 January 2022.
3. The Group takes this opportunity to assure you of our full support to the Bureau and the efforts you will undertake towards a new global compact for the least developed countries. As the group for all developing countries, the promotion of the cause of the LDCs is at the heart of the group's endeavors. This is our duty! Accordingly, we pledge our solidarity with the plight of the LDCs for their sustainable development.
4. The Group also recognizes and appreciates the work of the Office of the High Representative (UN-OHRLS) and continued coordination of the UN system contribution and support to the preparation of the Conference.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

5. 2020 marked the end of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA). LDCs made certain progress in the implementation of the Program of Action. Since 471.07 tc2Istanbul ,11( )lc2I67(1)lc2Ic11(o)-6(fu7(n)-7t)-5(i)5(a)-5(n)-3(ss1

9. The significant impact of the pandemic on LDCs highlights their structural vulnerabilities and underpins the urgent need to build resilience through domestic initiatives and the active backing of the international community. LDCs need support to integrate beneficially into the global community through inclusive and sustainable growth.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

10. We must recognize that LDCs are facing multiple challenges. They are facing extreme vulnerability to external shocks. Climate change and associated natural disasters are posing existential threats to LDCs.

