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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least  
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small  
Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

**Opening statement by**

**Rabab Fatima**

**Under- Secretary-**

H.E. Mr Samheng Bora, Secretary of State, Government of Cambodia  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My Office is very pleased to

The export of goods from LDCs in 2021 amounted to US\$ 229 billion, representing a 27 percent increase from the previous year.

The Asia-Pacific LDCs however, did not fare that well. With around \$90 billion of exports in 2021, the region experienced a 16 per cent growth compared to 2020.

Now, once again, global trade faces difficult headwinds.



The graduation of

We are encouraged by the G20 commitment to reinforce international trade and investment cooperation, to address supply chain issues and avoid trade disruptions.

Third: The Group of LDCs have already placed their proposals for the extension of LDC-specific special and preferential treatments in the WTO.

These proposals warrant a review and favorable consideration by the international community, especially in the current context of cascading global crises.

Fourth: Graduating countries need to engage with their key development and trading partners to negotiate extensions of LDC-specific preferential treatments.

This extension should be given for a fixed period and in a predictable manner commensurate with the needs and priorities of the LDCs .

Finally: The DPOA recognizes the importance of maintaining support to graduating and graduated countries to ensure continued and sustainable development.

It facilitated the launch of the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD).

This is an important inter-agency support mechanism led by my Office to support countries on the graduation track.

We are

In less than 5 weeks' time, we will be in Doha for the Fifth UN Conference of the LDCs, with the POA already agreed upon by the international community by consensus.

It represents the strong solidarity and commitment of the international community to the LDCs.

What is important now is to ensure that these commitments, goals and targets are translated into real