

Enhancing LDCs productive capacity and resilience for the impact of Global Crises

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Excellency Vice President of the General Assembly, Ambassadors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Despite the growing understanding and acceptance of the importance of disaster risk reduction and increased disaster response capacities, disasters and **in particular the management and reduction of risk** continue to pose huge challenge in all LDCs and Small Islands and developing states, today.

Disaster loss is on the rise with grave consequences for the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals, particularly the poor in the Least developed countries. According to studies, on average **more than 200 million people have been affected every year** by disasters in the past two decades. Events of hydro-meteorological origin constitute the large majority of disasters.

Disaster risk arises when **hazards interact with physical vulnerabilities compounded** by increasing vulnerabilities related to **changing demographic, technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, under-development, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, geological hazards, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, indicating where disasters could increasingly threaten a country's economy, and its population.**

- LDC's, **due to their particular vulnerability**, have weak capacities to **respond to and recover from disasters**; thus are exposed to

increasing impacts and face disproportionately economic, social and environmental consequences.

- **Small Islands & Developing States**, are located in the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the **intensity** and **frequency** of natural and environmental disasters.

The new outcome-Documents therefore should emphasize on:

- Systematic Integration of disaster risk management, into policies, plans and programmes for poverty reduction. Such an approach to be recognized as an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the MDGs.

To achieve this,

- Consorted effort and commitment (by development partners) to build the financial and technical capacities of LDC to strengthen their **observation, early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – to take priority** .
- **Making**, the millions of **poor farming households in LDCs** - who make up over 80% of the labor force & produce the bulk of agricultural output, **Risk-Resilient and increase their adaptability**, - **by Increasing investment – on infrastructure, Market, technology, Research & Development - for the agricultural sector ensuring local food security and sovereignty.**
- Recognizing severe vulnerability of LDCs to the impacts of Climate Change – **Climate Justice, Predictable, Adequate, New & Additional Climate Financing for LDCs** should take a special attention – in order to secure finances that can **build LDC's resilience to unpredicted Natural Disasters.**
- **Extending past efforts – Now Securing immediate Debt Relief for LDCs** should be the target - **debt servicing** to be

directed towards **building LDCs resilient capacity** allowing LDCs to **focus** on their **development effort**.

- **Securing** Equitable trade Agreements for LDCs (target to ensure the “**5 Special and Differential Provisions**” for LDCs .eg **Duty-Free & Quota-Free access**) in order to ensure **meaningful earnings & income** that will **accelerate** and **transform** LDC’s development from **diversified economies**.

I thank you!