

**Statement by the Russian Federation**  
**at the 71<sup>st</sup> execution session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD**  
*Geneva, 10-11 and 16-18 February 2022*

Agenda item 4 - The Least Developed Countries Report 2021: The Least  
Developed Countries in the Post-COVID World – Learning from  
50 Years of Experience

Dear Ms. President,

Dear Mr. Director of Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and  
Special Programmes,

Dear colleagues!

We thank the UNCTAD Secretariat for preparing the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report 2021. We highly appreciate the expert and analytical work of UNCTAD on LDCs and are convinced that the corresponding insights of the Organization is in demand by this group of states.

We note the relevance of the report in terms of the analysis of national strategies for the further development of this group of countries, their investment needs necessary to move towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the development of a new generation of international support measures.

We share the point of the authors of the report that structural transformation remains the main factor in the sustainable economic development of the LDCs. It is very important to increase productive capacity and related capabilities.

We note with concern the significant deterioration of the economic development prospects of the LDCs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic-related crises have reversed hard-won progress, in particular in important areas such as combating poverty and hunger, promoting education and health care.

Russia supports the UN efforts to promote the development of the LDCs. For decades, our country has been a responsible and reliable donor to the LDCs. In 2020, our contributions to international organizations, excluding humanitarian assistance

for the needs of these countries, amounted to more than 100 million US dollars. A number of LDCs received assistance in the fight against the pandemic. In particular, the first shipments of the Sputnik V vaccine were sent to Angola, Guinea and Djibouti. We expect that in the near future the Government of the Russian Federation will organize regular deliveries of the Russian vaccine to African countries to combat the spread of the Omicron virus.

Russia is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is ready for constructive interaction with all interested partners in order to work out effective and realistic measures for the sustainable development of the LDCs.

Thank you.