

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group, Geneva

Statement of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group Delivered at the 73rd Session of Trade and Development Board

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*Item 5- Investment and enterprise for development: International investment
in a turbulent era*

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**President of the Trade and Development Board, H.E Ambassador Dr.
Fancy Too,
Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group. LDC Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of G77 and China.
2. The LDCs Group appreciates the work done by the UNCTAD Secretariat in preparing this crucial World Investment Report themed 'International investment in a turbulent era.'
3. As the report highlights, the global investment dynamics have been full of turbulence this year. Although there was a nominal increment in the worldwide foreign direct investment, a larger share of this increase accrued to the developed countries. The LDCs did not benefit proportionately from the greater flows of foreign investment.
4. Further, the volatility underlying the geopolitical and economic landscape has brought some serious tremors in investment security. Protracted global conflicts, disruptions in trading channels, and declines in financial flows have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of LDCs. LDCs, therefore, needs enhanced prioritization and partnerships.
5. While investment inflows rose by 11 percent in developed economies, the figure was a mere 2 percent for developing economies. Predictable, secure

and substantive investment flows are precisely what LDCs are in need of at this critical juncture.

6. A larger share of investment today goes to the mega-infrastructure projects and rapidly advancing technological innovation industries, to which the LDCs have minimal access. Data shows that while LDCs have access to 20 percent, which is not a satisfactory number either, in other industries, only 10 percent of the inflows in the key strategic sectors are accounted for by LDCs. That makes the overall investment inflow distribution skewed and disproportionately not in favour of the LDCs.
7. With such structural barriers, exposed fault lines and intensified vulnerabilities, we cannot rule out the risk of LDCs racing to the bottom. LDCs are susceptible to the vicious cycle of poverty and marginalization. Without accessing substantial investments, they are unlikely to break out of the trap.

Madam President,

8. As the report outlined, the outcome is neither inevitable nor irreversible, and can be addressed with our collective efforts. There remains a silver lining of new opportunities that can emerge alongside concentrated investments. LDCs require the support of developed economies, UNCTAD and relevant partners in accessing and concentrating investments into existing and emerging avenues for investment, including in building infrastructures, developing skills, upgrading technologies and strengthening institutions.
9. In this regard, we must collectively work to create a more enabling investment environment for LDCs, by addressing structural barriers, reducing investment and climate change risks, strengthening productive capacities, and ensuring that investment flows are aligned with sustainable development priorities. Such efforts will be essential to attract and retain long-term, productive, and development-oriented investment in LDCs.
10. The recent flood event in Nepal that engulfed thousands of lives and billions of properties substantiates the necessity of building climate resilience in LDCs to protect their developmental efforts. Climate finance and development finance must be strengthened parallelly.
11. To conclude, the LDCs Group calls upon the international community to reinvigorate the engine of foreign direct investment in an open, equitable and

development-oriented climate, as envisaged in the Geneva Consensus adopted in 2025.

I thank you, Madam President.