

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group, Geneva

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

14 - 25 September 2026 | Room XVI, Palais des Nations

Item 3- General Debate, together with Items 4, 9 and 10

Time: 7 mins

Words: 712

**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. At the outset, the LDCs Group expresses its sincere appreciation to the Acting Secretary-General for his comprehensive presentation including his update on the Secretary General's Annual report, and the implementation of the outcomes of UNCTAD16.
3. The year 2025 brought transformative changes – in both positive and challenging ways – to the global trade and development landscape. The global economy was exposed to frequent tremors and increased volatility. Year 2025 remains significant because of the successful conclusion of the 16th Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD with the outcome-Geneva Consensus
4. While structural barriers continue to restrict developing and least developed countries from fully reaping the benefits of global trade and development, the role of UNCTAD in delivering tangible outcomes in line with its mandate is ever increasing. The LDCs Group shares the view that the UNCTAD has been doing valuable work in producing factual data and evidence, refining it to evidence-driven analysis, translating such analysis into policy

recommendations, and ultimately into policy-guided actions. The LDCs Group will continue to support UNCTAD in its endeavors in this regard.

5. Geo-political tensions are protracted, and economic fault lines are being exposed. Investment flows are unpredictable, while debt distress is on the rise. The global trade, finance and development paradigm is undergoing rapid and transformative shifts, requiring LDCs to develop robust and resilient adaptive strategies, with the support of the UNCTAD.
6. Moving to agenda item 9, UNCTAD 16 was the highlight of the year 2025 in the field of trade and development. The quadrennial conference came at a time when financial flows were weakening, and liquidity pressure was mounting. Notwithstanding the constrained resource availability, the ask from UNCTAD is even higher. Delivering more with fewer resources has become an imperative in today's world.
7. The Geneva Consensus for a Just and Sustainable Economic Order adopted by all 195 Member States, reflects the Member States' firm commitment to working together to advance the agenda of global economic integration and development-oriented international cooperation and economic integration.
8. The Ministers of the LDCs came together on 21 October 2025 amidst the UNCTAD 16, assessed their realities, held meaningful discussions and agreed on LDC Ministerial Declaration. The Geneva Consensus outlines the needs and priorities of LDCs. It is now time to translate this common commitment into concrete action.
9. LDCs face a set of structural and systemic challenges that they must overcome to fully participate in and benefit from global trade and finance. Decreasing ODA flows to LDCs, reduced foreign direct investment, increasing debt servicing costs and climate disasters have hindered LDCs from advancing their development and remaining at the forefront of global development efforts. The LDCs Group, therefore, urges the trading and development partners to increase financial flows to LDCs in the forms of grants, concessional loans, climate finance and other mutually agreeable modalities that respond to their specific needs and circumstances.

10. LDCs often face technological barriers in all spheres of development. Without technological competence and access, LDCs have been lagging behind other non-LDC Member States in effectiveness and efficiency. LDCs require technical assistance as well as targeted capacity-building measures in the fields of trade, finance, and development so that they can effectively harness the benefits of the latest technologies and innovations.

Madam President,

11. The ongoing session of the Trade and Development Board is set to negotiate a draft resolution after a long break. The LDCs Group wishes to see its common concerns and priorities adequately reflected and addressed by the resolution and will remain constructively engaged during the informal consultations.

12. On the other agenda items scheduled for the coming days, the LDCs Group will actively participate in relevant discussions and voice its common views.

13. To conclude, the LDCs Group reaffirms its confidence in the capability of UNCTAD to support LDCs in realizing inclusive growth, sustainable development and economic integration, taking into account their diverse national circumstances and specific development needs.

I thank you, Madam President.