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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile

President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**High-level Opening Session**

**Istanbul to Doha - a journey towards sustainable and resilient  
development: The Asia Pacific stories for**

at the

Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul  
Programme of Action in Preparation for the Fifth United Nations Conference on  
the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)

30 August 2021, 9:00 – 10:00 am (Geneva time) **[3:00-4:00 a.m. EDT]**

Hybrid Meeting

(in person at CR Tempus 1 at UNOG, Geneva, Switzerland and virtually)



5. Despite all these challenges, we must still approach the LDC5 Conference with a lot of hope, optimism and high expectations. In particular, we must continue to pin our hopes on the realization of 2030 Agenda and the SDGs -- wherein all UN Member States and the stakeholders -- have pledged to “leave no one behind”.

6. We are all cognizant, however, that at the moment, too many people in LDCs are at risk of being left behind, and the situation is exacerbated by the fact that we have less than 10 years to change this dire situation. In my view, the true success of the 2030 Agenda hinges heavily on the achievement and concrete progress made by vulnerable groups of States like the LDCs.

7. We should also remain hopeful that, since the Decade of Action for the SDGs coincides with the New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, there is an opportunity to shape an effective and strengthened response to enable the LDCs to recover lost ground on the SDGs implementation as well as increase efforts to confront the many areas where progress is needed.

**Chairperson,**

8. In my previous capacity as Vice-President of ECOSOC at its 2021 Session, I presided together with the President of the General Assembly over a joint thematic event convened by the two Principal Organs on 18 June 2021, under the theme of: “*Diversifying the Financing Toolbox to Enhance Investment in Least Developed Countries*”. The event highlighted a number of key factors that require our attention, among them;

The need for a comprehensive financing mechanism for the LDCs to better manage risk and provide support in times of crisis, and also

A call for a reformed and strengthened international financial system that can provide more effective and targeted support for the LDCs.

9. ~~World leaders~~ ~~providing~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~opening~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~LDC5~~ ~~Conference~~ ~~we~~ ~~also~~ ~~have~~ ~~an~~ ~~opportunity~~ ~~as~~ ~~Member~~ ~~States~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~UN~~ ~~system~~ ~~to~~ ~~evaluate~~ ~~and~~

10. Furthermore, it is imperative that we ensure that the LDCs Member States that are in good prospect to graduate in the course of the next decade, or have recently graduated but in transition whilst at the same time recovering

**Excellencies,**

15. As I conclude, let me reaffirm that as President of ECOSOC, my team and I -- with the support our Secretariat -- stand ready to offer our full support for the agenda of LDCs especially at this very challenging times. We will be working hand in hand with you as we traverse the path towards Doha (LDC5).

16. This week's meeting is another key milestone on this road and for the LDCs to build consensus on how to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in those countries during the Decade of Action, and to ensure that no one will be left behind. It is therefore vital that the LDC5 Conference delivers concrete solutions for the challenges faced by this group of Member States, given the vulnerabilities they face.

17. Let me also take this moment to express my appreciation for the invaluable support of the Government of Qatar as the host country of LDC5.

18. Please, as ECOSOC President, consider me and my office your trusted partner in our common objectives of effective LDC5 Conference preparations and its success.

19. **I thank you for your attention, and wish you all the best for the remainder of this important meeting.**