

LDC FUTURE FORUM

Helsinki, 6.10.2021

Opening Remarks

Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege and pleasure for Finland to host the first-ever LDC Future Forum in Helsinki. I am honoured to address this Forum with high-level policy makers, distinguished academics, and other colleagues across the world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the United Nations
OftrLadies and Gentlemen,

We have lived through decades of global progress in fighting poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic is now threatening to reverse many of these gains.

To help the Least Developed Countries out of the pandemic is essential for the continued development of the LDCs. In this task, multilateral cooperation is crucial.

Finland has supported the global response to the pandemic by bilateral commitments and via the European Union's Team Europe -package. As part of the Team Europe, Finland is beginning the donations of 3,65 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines during this month of October. The political and financial support to the United Nations is particularly important in our global response. Finland has so far supported global efforts to alleviate the COVID-

Human rights, accountable, effective and inclusive institutions, economic foundations and the capacity of states to deliver services are needed to address state fragility. Fostering resilience at all levels has become increasingly important given the fact we are facing complex challenges in an unstable world.

Finland has in recent years increasingly focused our aid in countries where fragility is an important feature, such as Myanmar, Somalia, Palestinian territories, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Afghanistan is a grave concern both in terms of human rights and democracy, but also in economic and societal terms. Another worrying trend is seen in Lebanon that has become one of the 34 most fragile states.

Aligning development aid, humanitarian assistance, crisis management and diplomacy is a key to promote sustainable solutions in fragile contexts.

Excellencies,

Finland is firmly committed to promoting and defending democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, internally and abroad. This commitment is enshrined in our Constitution. Finland's own experience demonstrates that democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law are the cornerstones for peace and development.

Democracy and the rule of law are enablers of sustainable development. Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda highlights the importance of the fundamental values for ensuring peaceful and inclusive development for all.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has a long history of cooperation in this field with various partner countries including with civil society actors. In order to enhance our support, the Ministry has recently established, in collaboration with the University of Helsinki, a RuleUnivol (u)2 TU

