

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.47 entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries"

1. The present oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.47, the General Assembly would:
 - (a) recall paragraph 157 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 on holding a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action, and decides to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in 2021 for a duration of not more than five working days, with the following mandate:
 - (i) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;
 - (ii) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;
 - (iii) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework;
 - (iv) To mobilize additional international support measures and action, in addition to domestic resources, in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels;
 - (b) also decide to convene, towards the end of 2020 and/or early in 2021, an intergovernmental preparatory

committee, which would hold no more than two meetings for no more than five days each; and

- (c) also decide to take a decision on the organizational aspects, date and venue of the Conference and on the venue, duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings at its seventy-fourth session.

3. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraphs 42 and 43 of the draft resolution, it is currently envisaged that the following meetings will be held in New York: (a) a five-day meeting for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2021 consisting of 18 meetings, inclusive of parallel meetings, with interpretation in all six languages; (b) a five-day meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee towards the end of 2020 consisting of ten meetings with interpretation in all six languages; and (c) a five-day meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee towards the end of 2021 consisting of ten meetings with interpretation in all six language. These would constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2020. The additional requirements for meeting services would arise in 2020 and 2021 in the amounts of \$84,000 and \$168,000 respectively.

4. Furthermore, the requirements for documentation arising from operative paragraphs 42 and 43 of the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. It is currently envisaged that for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2021, there would be four pre-session documents (total of 18,000 words), three in-session documents (5,000 words) and one post-session document (20,000 words) in all six official languages. For the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2020, there would be one pre-session document (1,000 words), one in-session document (1,000 words) and one post-session document (5,000 words) in the six official languages. For the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2021, there would be three pre-session documents (5,000 words), one in-session document (1,000 words) and one post-session document (5,000 words) in the six official languages. The additional requirements for documentation services would arise in 2020 and 2021 in the amounts of \$22,700 and \$169,100 respectively.

5. However, in accordance with operative paragraph 44 of the draft resolution, if the organizational aspects, date and

venue of the Conference, and on the venue, duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings, were to change upon the decision by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, the Secretary-General would submit the relevant costs of the requirements in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

6. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.47, additional resource requirements currently estimated in the amounts of \$106,700 and \$337,100 would be included in the proposed programme budgets for 2020 and 2021 respectively under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management.