

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Statement

By

The Delegation of the State of Qatar

Delivered by

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Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar**

Before

The United Nations General Assembly

in

**The High Level Meeting on the Comprehensive, Global
Midterm Review of the Programme of Action for the Least
Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

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Madam President,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important topic. I would also like to thank His Excellency, the U.N Secretary-General for his report on the Comprehensive Global Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. Our thanks also go to the State of Benin for its leadership and relentless work to coordinate the efforts of the LDC's in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA), and for convening, in June 2006, the Ministerial Conference in which a large number of states members of the U.N and organizations of the U.N system and others participated, and which culminated in "The Cotonou Declaration and Strategy on the further implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action.

Madam President,

The importance of this exercise lies in the fact that it is a review to confirm the commitment undertaken by states to implement the measures included in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and in the framework of the goals and commitments defined by the U.N. Summits and Major Conferences for the LCD's. In this vein, we view the Cotonou Strategy included in document A/61/L1 as a comprehensive review and also it addresses, comprehensively, the shortcomings in the implementation of the BPOA.

My delegation attaches the utmost importance to the implementation of the measures included in the Programme of Action for the LDC's and their translation into concrete, definite steps and actions, in accordance with the national development framework of the LDC' s, with a view to eliminating poverty and achieving social and economic development in these countries. In

this regard, my delegation believes that the General Assembly can, under the broad mandate assigned to it, play a leading role in mobilizing international capacities, discuss the best means to implement the goals defined in the BPOA and address the challenges that prevent the realization of the objectives of the programme.

Madam President,

The BPOA embodies a global commitment to tackle the spread of poverty in the LDC's through the mobilization of greater domestic and international resources in order to achieve development and address the structural challenges that face them. According to the above-mentioned U.N Secretary General's report, the progress of the LDC's on most of the goals of the Programme has been so slow and uneven that it has fallen short of attaining the goals envisaged in the Programme of Action for the LDC's and its aim of eliminating poverty and achieving steady growth and sustainable development. We are all the more concerned since the Secretary General's report states that the recent experience of these countries has shown a tenuous link between economic growth and the mitigation of poverty, and that the limited data pertaining to the recent trends in the rate of poverty in the LDC's indicate some increase in income poverty. The report considers that the LDC's are currently those countries with a dwindling prospect of achieving the goal of halving the rate of poverty by 2015.

Madam President,

The question of resource mobilization is still the main focus of the effort to eliminate poverty in the world's LDC's. While my delegation welcomes the partial improvement in the flow of ODA to the LDC's and the launching of initiatives to enhance access by the LDC's to the global markets, it believes, at the same time, that the signs of this improvement will remain

limited in view of the continued small share of these countries of the world's trade, the weak flow of Foreign Direct Investment and the excessive reliance on commodities. Proceeding from this, my delegation believes in the importance of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDC's, the commitments included in the outcome document of the World Summit in September 2005, the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Round.

Madam President,

I am honoured to state that the State of Qatar has always sought to be a supportive partner of the LDC's in their efforts to combat poverty and distribute the fruits of growth more justly and more equitably. It had the honour of hosting the WTO Fourth Ministerial Conference in 2001 which culminated in the Doha Agenda. It also had the honour of hosting the South Summit in 2005, during which His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, announced his initiative to establish the "South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Affairs" of which the LDC's will be the greatest beneficiaries. His Highness also asserted the commitment of the State of Qatar to provide the target percentage of the GNP for development assistance, while earmarking 15% of it for the LDC's as of 2006.

Finally, it is our hope that the international community, including all its members and organizations, will fulfill its commitment to provide effective aid to assist the LDC's in their development efforts.

Thank you Madam President.