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ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2011–2020

CORRIGENDUM

The attached executive summary substitutes the version contained in the document.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, Member States agreed on the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1) during formal negotiations on 11 May 2011 in the Committee of the Whole, and agreed on the political declaration on 13 May 2011. The overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries, to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals, and enable half of the 48 least developed countries to graduate out of this category by 2020.

Guided by this overarching goal, the national policies of least developed countries and international support measures have the following objectives:

- achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in least developed countries, by strengthening their productive capacity in all sectors through structural transformation;
- build human capacities by fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development, gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- reduce least developed countries' vulnerability to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, including climate change, and enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges through strengthening their resilience;
- ensure enhanced financial resources and their effective use for the development of least developed countries, including through domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance, external debt relief, foreign direct investment and remittances; and
- enhance good governance at all levels.

The Programme of Action recognizes that multiple crises have created a new consciousness regarding instabilities and vulnerabilities of the global economy and that it is important to redirect attention to the structural transformation of least developed countries through increasing productive capacity and diversification and strengthening home-grown development paths.

Food and nutrition security is considered in the agriculture and rural development section of the Programme of Action. Nutrition and access to food are addressed in the Programme of Action, and the twin-track approach to food and nutrition security is reflected. The Programme of Action calls on international partners to “provide resources to the relevant United Nations agencies to expand and enhance food assistance and safety net programmes to address hunger and malnutrition, based on needs”, and to deliver on commitments set out in the L’Aquila initiative on global food security. It also calls for policies to “ensure access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all least developed countries”, and the provision of safety nets for poor smallholder farmers.

The section on human and social development/population and primary health/social protection also includes mention of nutrition and recognizes that poverty and hunger are multidimensional problems that pose serious constraints to least developed countries' efforts to make progress in human and social development. Targets for reducing poverty and hunger include achievement of targets under Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015, and building on these to significantly reduce infant, under-5 and maternal mortality rates and child undernutrition by 2020. It has also been agreed to enhance social protection systems to improve the resilience of all, including poor and disadvantaged groups.

The section on multiple crises and other emerging challenges recognizes that least developed countries continue to be vulnerable to a variety of shocks, including food, fuel, financial and economic crises and natural disasters, with least developed countries having to confront challenges posed by climate change, and some by conflicts, which have eroded some of the development gains they made over the last decade.

The section on climate change and environmental sustainability calls for the international community to help least developed countries address the challenges of livelihood and food security and the health of people affected by adverse impacts of climate change, and respond to the needs of people displaced as a result of extreme weather events, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels. Disaster risk reduction text recalls the Hyogo Framework for Action and its measures for reducing disaster risk, increasing preparedness, protecting people, infrastructure and national assets in a decentralized manner, raising awareness, and integrating social protection policies and programmes that take natural disasters into account. For disaster risk reduction, financial and technical assistance from development partners is called for, along with capacity development, early warning systems and other information-sharing mechanisms.