**Press Release**

 **“International solidarity and partnership are the key to achieve the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs” –Ambassador Rabab Fatima**

**New York, 17 March 2022:**

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Ambassador Rabab Fatima said, “International solidarity and partnership are the key to achieve the concrete commitments and deliverables of the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs (DPoA)”. She was addressing the first part of the 5th United Nations Conference on the LDCs (LDC5), which was held at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York, today. Ambassador Rabab Fatima along with the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Robert Rae co-chaired of the Preparatory process of this conference.

The General Assembly earlier decided to hold the LDC5 conference in two parts. The first part was held this morning in New York in the General Assembly Hall, UNHQs. The second part will take place from 5 to 9 March 2023 in Doha Qatar. The first part of the conference has been organized to adopt the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs-a decade long development roadmap for the LDCs. The second part will focus on other substantive issues, which is expected to be participated at the level of Head of States and Governments for the period of 2022-203.

Speaking on behalf of the two co-chairs, Ambassador Fatima highlighted the unprecedented crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic and uneven and inequitable responses to tackle it, she commended the commitment and solidarity of the Member States to adopt the DPoA, which provides an ambitious and well-defined action agenda for the LDCs and their development partners for the decade 2022-31. She requested everyone to support the follow-up and monitoring mechanism of the DPoA with due diligence for its successful implementation.

She urged the international community and the development partners to remain deeply engaged with the LDCs during the entire cycle of the DPOA implementation. In this regard, she underscored the need for integrating the DPOA in the Strategic Plans and country programmes of the UN agencies, Funds and Programmes to ensure that the UN’s impact in the LDCs matches their needs and ground realities.

At the outset of the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani was elected as the President of the LDC5 conference. Ambassador Fatima thanked him and the State of Qatar for the leadership and support to host the 5th United Nations Conference on the LDCs. The second part of the Conference will be held in Doha, Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023, which is expected to be attended by many Heads of States and Governments.

The meeting was also attended by Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi as the global Chair of the LDCs and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, among others. Many Member States participated and spoke at the event. They deeply appreciated the role of Bangladesh and Canada to ensure smooth facilitation and consensual adoption of the DPOA.

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