



LDC5

Civil Society Forum

“From Commitments to Action”

Doha, 4 – 9 March 2023

Report

LDC5 Civil Society Forum

The Civil Society Forum was organized by a core group of CSOs, as an opportunity for civil society to share their expertise, analysis, and experiences for DPoA implementation and support the sustainable development of LDCs.

The Forum consisted of plenary sessions, roundtables, caucuses, and self-organized meetings. Speakers included CSO experts and practitioners across the thematic clusters, as well as a number of high-level Member State and United Nations officials.

Read the key messages from the plenaries [here](#).

Key thematic areas:

(Click to go directly to the session's slide)

1. [Taking stock: Multiple Crises and Challenges for LDCs](#)
2. [DPoA: key for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
3. [Financial Architecture & Policy Reforms](#)
4. [Food Systems & Agroecology](#)
5. [LDCs and Work - Informality, Care and Migration](#)
6. [Planetary Health & Peoples' Health](#)
7. [Digital economy and Sustainable Development](#)
8. [Peoples' visions and ambitions for DPoA and beyond](#)

About this LDC5 Civil Society Forum Report

The Forum and all its sessions benefited from a wealth of information from the expertise of the panellists, with every session having high attendance and participant engagement. It is impossible to note every detail, but this report captures some of the highlights from each plenary and roundtable. It serves as a snapshot of the sessions for those who could not attend, and a reminder of important points for those who did.

This report has been compiled by **Barbara Adams** and **Julie Kim** of Global Policy Forum (GPF), **Roberto Bissio** of Social Watch, and **Chee Yoke Ling** of Third World Network (TWN), who are also members of the core organizing group for the LDC5 Civil Society Forum.

We thank Perna Bomzan (TWN), Johanna Lichtschlag (German Youth Delegation), Theiva Lingam (TWN/SAM), Tejaswini Vavilala (GPF), Fayza Yassine (Arab NGO Network for Development) and Ana Zeballos (ITeM/Social Watch) for monitoring and reporting assistance.

- For detailed information and resources for the LDC5 Civil Society Forum, please visit the Info Kit: <https://bit.ly/ldc5-csf>.
- Images of Tweets are linked to the original post.
- Please view as a slideshow for best readability.

Civil Society Forum Meeting Programme

LDC5 - Civil Society Forum | Doha, Qatar

Saturday		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
March 04, 2023		March 05, 2023		March 06, 2023		March 07, 2023		March 08, 2023		March 09, 2023	
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival	CAUCUSES		CAUCUSES * Africa caucus (tbc)		CAUCUSES		CAUCUSES		CAUCUSES / Next steps	
09:00 - 10:30		Official LDC5 Opening 9:00-10:00am		Plenary 3: Financial Architecture & Policy Reforms: critical opportunities for LDCs		Plenary 5: LDCs and Work - Informality, Care and Migration		Plenary 7: Digital economy and Sustainable Development - Issues at Stake			
10:30 - 11:00	Break		Break								
11:00 - 12:00	Registration at the Convention Centre - Introductory Orientation 10:00 - 12:00		Plenary 1: Taking stock: Multiple Crises and Challenges for LDCs							Plenary 9: Closing	
12:00-14:00	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch		Lunch		Lunch		Lunch	
14:00 - 15:00	Welcome and Introductory Orientation for Civil Society	Plenary 2: DPoA: key for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		Plenary 4: Food Systems & Agroecology: multiple objectives for LDCs		Plenary 6: Planetary Health & Peoples' Health		Plenary 8: Peoples' visions and ambitions for DPoA and beyond & Dialogue between UN Resident Coordinators and CSOs		Official LDC5 Closing, 2:00-5:00pm	
15:00 - 16:00	High Level Official Opening / Inauguration of the CSO Forum 15:00 - 16:30										
16:00 - 17:00		Round Table: Equity in Multilateralism: Peace, Sustainable Development, Human Rights									
17:00 - 18:00	Civil Society at LDC5: Setting the Scene			Parallel discussions: * Social Protection in the LDCs * Parliamentarians’ Call ...		Parallel discussions: * Civil Society Perspectives on Addressing Multiple Crises in LDCs		Parallel discussions: * LDC Civil Society Assembly on the Effective Implementation of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA)			
18:00 - 19:00				* Parliamentarians’ Call for a Fossil Fuel-Free Future (continued)		* LDCs, economic integration and structural transformation: the challenge of development in Africa for Africa					

Participating Organizations

Social Watch, Italian Climate Network, Green Girls Platform, TANGO, Organisation des jeunes tchadiens pour l'union est la paix, ONG ASHAD et UCF, AFDE/REJEFAC, ONG ASRAD, ASOMEF, Alliance pour une mine responsable (ARM), COAST Foundation, Australia for Cedar Tanzania, DUKINGIRE ISI YACU, MSIS-tatao, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), LDC Watch, SAAPE, Radio and Television Taina/Goma, Society for International Development, Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial (SADF), WAFRICA Guinée, SEATINI-Uganda, GSDM, Professionnels de l'Agroécologie, Arab NGO Network for Development, Strength in Diversity Development Centre, Veille Citoyenne Togo, ONG SOLI-DEV, Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, Green Crescent Zambia, Fundação Kissama, Tanzania Trade and Investment Coalition (TATIC), Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomons (NIPS), African Youth Peer Review Committee, UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative), Mandela Center International, CICODEV AFRIQUE, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) Niger, Women In Social Entrepreneurship, Women for a Change, National Women Empowerment and Rehabilitation Organization - (NWERO), FIAN, SOS Family ONG, CECIDE, Centre du Commerce international pour le Développement), Child's Destiny and Development Organization (CHIDDO), Organisation communautaire de Devo Partenariat pour le Développement Local (PDL), Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights/ Women's Research and Training Centre-University of Aden, Association Sénégalaise d'Évaluation (SenEval), National Prisoner Foundation (NPF), Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif - PAPDA, Reality of Aid-Africa, Alternative Espaces Citoyens, Habari RDC, Solidarite Fanm Ayisyen - SOFA, Association Nigérienne des Const, Center for Peace Building and Democracy in Liberia, Ocean Servant Foundation, Somali Youth Development Foundation, Youth and Women for Peace and Sustainable Development (YOWPSUD), Soil Solution, Justice Call, CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE (CEGO), Just Clean It Limited, Green Mentors, AWTAD Anti-Corruption Organization, OISCA International South India, Jamma Children Foundation, Citizens Organization for Advocacy and Resilience (COAR), Kikandwa Environmental Association (KEA), Hope for Humanity International, Organisation des Visionnaires Dévoués pour un Développement de Haute Modernisation (OVDDHMO), Global Policy Forum, Glocal Private Limited, CONSTRUISSONS ENSEMBLE LE MONDE, Afrique Esperance, Earth Regenerative Project Sierra Leone, Yali Network, GARED, KNFP, Red de Cooperación Amazónica REDCAM Red Global de Comunidades Locales sobre Biodiversidad GLOECBI, Inmates Educational Foundation, BeMORE Global Project Limited, Advocacy Network Against Irregular Migration, Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER), The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Action pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant (APDE), The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action, The Dutch Organization for Inclusive Nurtured Growth "DOING" Parents Forum, AFDE/REJEFAC, Mothers pride and development initiative, Association de Développement Agricole Educatif et Sanitaire de Manono, Cultivate!, Conseil National de la Jeunesse du Mali, WoMen Against Violence and Exploitation WAVE Foundation, Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment, Improve Your Society Organization (IYSO), UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, Association for Solidarity through Humanitarian Imperative Action (ASHIA) International, Tufts University, Masimanyane Women's Rights International, RAHA FOUNDATION, ACID (association pour la coopération au développement international), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Asmaa Association for Development Organization, Burkina Faso Investment Agency, Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative, Centre Amadou Hampaté Ba (CAHBA), ONG JEUNESSE ACTIVE DE GUINEE, Southern Africa Embrace Foundation, Société Sommac, Association de Lutte Contre les Violences Sexuelles et Appui à la Promotion du Développement Durable "ALUCOVIS-APDD", NAGAAD WOMEN'S NETWORK, Europe External Programme with Africa, African Indigenous Women Empowerment, Arte-Magna International (AMI), Ngo Ecosoc Unesu, Association Senegalaise pour la Promotion des Energies Renouvelables "KokkiEnergie", ONG MMM, West Africa Coalition for Indigenous People's Rights (WACIPR), Centre d'accompagnement des alternatives locales de développement (Caald), Sudanese Development Call Organisation, Institut De Diplomatie Publique, Kurram welfare Home, Burkina Faso Investment Agency, Youth and Women for Peace and Sustainable Development, PVBLIC Foundation, Communauté des Personnes Engagés pour Promouvoir l'Entrepreneuriat et le Développement durable (CPEPED), Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), OUI CARRY, SBGAZ, PEOPLE OF GOOD HEART INITIATIVE, Queens world network/Church of God mission intl, Asmaa Society, The Fathi Initiative, Youth Empowerment for Future Association, Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), ENDA, African Trade Union, Asian People's Movement on Debt & Development, African Food Sovereignty Network, Pacific Network on Globalisation, GATJ, IT for Change, Spectra, Friends of the Earth, Malaysia, Global Policy Forum – Europe, Latindadd, Groundswell International, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), UNI Global Union, War on Want, Southern Africa Resource Watch, Global Biodiversity Youth Network, Brazil, People's Health Movement, South Africa, Africa Trade Network, ETC Group

Organization
& Participant
Profiles



Resources

External links to relevant resources

CSO Prep toward LDC5

- ❑ [Doha Programme of Action \(DPoA\)](#)
 - [Digest of DPoA](#)
- ❑ LDC5: [1st virtual Consultation with Civil Society Representatives](#)
- ❑ LDC5: [2nd virtual Consultation with Civil Society Representatives](#)
- ❑ LDC5 Consultations: [CSO Quotes](#)
- ❑ LDC5 [Sessions from PrepCom 1](#)

From the UN

- ❑ September 2022 [LDC Ministerial Declaration](#)
- ❑ [The Doha Programme of Action as an accelerator of implementation of the 2030 Agenda - Special High-level event of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#) (UN WebTV)
- ❑ [Our Common Agenda: The Secretary-General's policy brief series](#)

UN resources on the LDCs

- ❑ [UN Media coverage of LDC5](#)
- ❑ UN [LDC5 Website](#)
- ❑ UN-DESA [LDC Portal](#)
- ❑ UNCTAD [LDC list](#) / [Road to LDC5](#)
- ❑ UN-OHRLLS [Meeting Calendar](#)
- ❑ UN [High-level Summits & Conferences 2023](#)
- ❑ UN OHRLLS [Official Documents on LDCs](#)
- ❑ UNCTAD [LDC Report 2021](#)
- ❑ UN-DESA CDP [Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Least Developed Country Category \(2021\)](#)
- ❑ [Record of VNRs presented by LDCs](#)
- ❑ UN Tech Bank for LDCs [“The State of Science, Technology & Innovation in LDCs”](#)
- ❑ [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#)
- ❑ [List of Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

Post-LDC5

Upcoming UN High-level events

- [8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs](#) (3-4 May 2023)
- [2023 High-Level Political Forum & SDG Summit Timeline](#) (July - Sept 2023)
- [2024 Summit of the Future](#) (Sept 2024)

Relevant past events in 2022 from the UN (Webcast links)

- [Briefing of the General Assembly on Science-based Evidence in support of Sustainable Solutions](#) (7 Feb)
- [67th Commission on the Status of Women](#) (6-17 Mar)
- [Development Cooperation Forum](#) (14-15 Mar)
- [UN Water Conference](#) (22-24 Mar)
- UN [ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Tax Cooperation](#) (31 Mar)
- [Seventh Session of UN Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism on Right to Development](#) (3-5 Apr)
- [Civil Society Townhall with the President of the General Assembly](#) (20 Apr)
- [Financing for Development Forum](#) (17-20 Apr)

UN Officials who participated in the Civil Society Forum

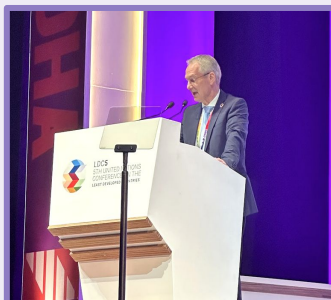
Click on their photos to go to their official UN biographies or agencies.



UN Deputy Secretary-General
Amina J. Mohammed



UN Under Secretary-General
(OHRLLS)
Rabab Fatima



President of UN 77th General
Assembly
Csaba Kőrösi



President of UN ECOSOC
Lachezara Stoeva



Chef de Cabinet to UN
Secretary-General
Courtenay Rattray



UN Special Advisor on Africa
Cristina Duarte



Director, Division for Africa &
LDCs (UNCTAD)
Paul Akiwumi



Chief, E-commerce & Digital
Economy (UNCTAD)
Torbjörn Fredriksson



UN-OHCHR
Diego Valadares



Contribution of the CSO Forum

See the [Final Civil Society Statement](#)

"I want to express my deep gratitude to the organizations in the core group for the crucial critical role that they have played in putting together the CSO Forum and from what I've heard and felt and seen over the last five days you guys have done an amazing job in mobilizing the CSOs from across the world to be here.

...And I have seen your final statement. It looks great. We'll just because of porosity of time, it will possibly need to be shortened a bit for delivery, but the longer statement can be submitted as part of the report. Thank you very much. Your tireless efforts to mobilize a civil society, organizations from around the world to come to Doha has paid huge dividends."

- ***Under Secretary-General Rabab Fatima, High-Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States***

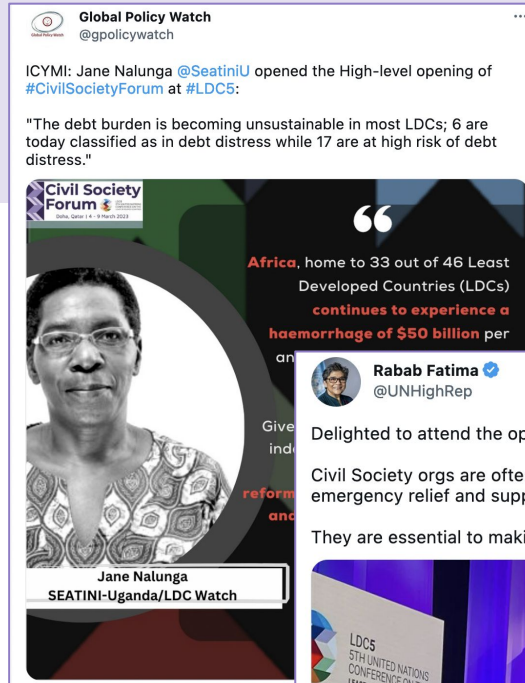
High Level Official Opening – and setting the scene

In collaboration with the UN-OHRLLS, the Civil Society Forum brought civil society participants from around the world, in particular from LDCs and other developing countries, to the Conference. Along with meaningful participation of decision-makers from governments and various multilateral processes, this exchange helped build support and strengthen commitment for the sustainable development of LDCs.

The High Level opening began with CSO speaker, Jane Nalunga outlining the dire situation of LDCs. PGA Csaba Kőrösi and USG Rabab Fatima voiced their support for LDCs and emphasized the importance of CSOs in the sustainable development of LDCs, in line with the DPoA and the 2030 Agenda. Conveners of the plenaries then set the scene for the coming week of discussions in their respective thematic areas.

Read a [summary of the CSOs presentations](#) by Gita Sen

Moderators: Roberto Bissio (Social Watch) & Yodit Kebede (Cultivate!)
Speakers: President of the UN General Assembly Csaba Kőrösi
Mr. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Under-Secretary General Rabab Fatima (UN OHRLLS), Jane Nalunga (SEATINI, Uganda)



Plenary 1: Taking stock

– Multiple Crises and Challenges for LDCs



- **African LDCs** have been trapped in 3 paradoxes: Africa is rich in financial resources but begging for debt relief; Africa has any source of energy one can imagine, but it's a dark continent; Africa is rich in agricultural system, but food insecure. Africa does not control its economic, financial flows. When you don't control these, any external shock pushes you to a liquidity crisis. This is a signal of lack of ownership.
- The underlying cause and driver of crises is the fundamentally unjust/flawed nature of the international financial system. We need to see from the perspective of debtors. Debt is a problem when it undermines the ability to provide essential services and ensure **Human Rights**. Also, need to challenge the insufficient debt relief measures provided by the lenders.
- The countries **build their own capacities** to produce goods & services and trade amongst themselves. Africa/LDCs have most of the minerals for the green transition. LDCs need infrastructure to take advantage of these resources.
- Many African countries, small or big, recognize they need to overcome the legacy of **colonization**, transforming the structure they inherited.
- **Gender equality** is not a micro issue, but a macroeconomic issue. We're living in interlocked lives. The lifestyle of Global North is driving the world toward extinction, with women in Global South, LDCs, SIDS, indigenous communities, getting the harshest impact.
- **Green capitalism** is not the answer to the climate problem or the biodiversity crisis we face today. **Precariousness of workers** are being normalized; data from poorer countries are being grabbed. Huge power of **corporations** and support from governments to these corporations undermines human rights and economic justice for the most disadvantaged. Obscene wealth, backlashes against **social, gendered justice**. CSOs are in the forefront; not only of human and humanitarian analyses, but also of practical/practitioner responses.

Moderator: Gita Sen (DAWN)

Speakers: H.E. Cristina Isabel Lopes da Silva Monteiro Duarte (UN Special Adviser on Africa), Paul Akiwumi, Director for Africa & LDCs (UNCTAD), Cheikh Tidiane Dieye (ENDA-CACID, Senegal), Tetteh Hormeku (African Trade Network, Ghana), Lidy Nacpil (Asian People's Movement on Debt & Development), Emilia Reyes (Equidad de Genero & Women's Working Group on FfD, México), Bright Thamie Phiri (Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, Malawi)

More from Plenary 1

"There is a need to change the paradigm. And there is a critical starting point, if everyone agrees to change the paradigm - mindset. We need to shift from managing poverty to managing development. They are two different animals.

From a policy-maker standpoint, the content, design of managing poverty is different from managing development. A second important starting point - if you want to believe in sustainable development, in the face of Africa you need to tackle first sustainable financing. It's a prerequisite to sustainable development."

- **Cristina Duarte, UN Special Advisor on Africa**

Global Policy Watch
@gpolicywatch

#LDC5 #CivilSocietyForum
@Inacpil asked from whose POV #DebtDistress was seen:
"Countries are only in #DebtDistress when they can't pay on time and in full - a lender's point of view."

For #debtors, debt distress means undermining public funding & human rights preservation.



Global Policy Watch
@gpolicywatch

#LDC5 #CivilSocietyForum
@Duarte_UNOSAA highlighted paradoxes of Africa: Rich in financial resources but begging for #debt relief & rich in #energy resources but a "dark continent."

"The crises are telling us in a very painful way that we have not built the resilience."



Cristina Duarte

Plenary 2:

DPoA – key for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



- **DPoA** is the roadmap for LDCs. For Agenda 2030 & SDG success, the objectives of DPoA must be met.
- The **multilateral system** is fragmented, siloed and contradictory – so CSOs need to track and be active across many instruments.
- There's a regression on **historical responsibilities, CbDR, Special & Differentiated Treatment** across the board.
- There are many structural barriers. Constrained political and fiscal space hit LDCs hard.
- Corporate solutions use women as a token and co-opt the language. **Pink-washing** of corporations. Superficial “feminist foreign policies.”
- Real development has always been state-led; but developing countries are told to leave it to the market, thus “Kicking Away the Ladder”, as Ha-joon Chang said.
- Tackle **structural issues** at the UN, as offered in the **Financing for Development (FfD)** process that resists reducing development to fundraising.
- SDGs are not making progress. Need more grant funding, not public and private loans that push Global South further into debt.
- Accelerated **digitization** may increase inequalities and create additional problems.
- Market model has not brought connectivity in LDCs. Old paradigm of tech transfer won't work. Public data is also a sovereign national resource.
- Big data and drones are the solutions being proposed to solve **food insecurity**, along with increasing production at the cost of forests and water bodies. The alternative is **agroecology** and food systems approach.
- Financing and governance for digital public goods, effective taxation of transnational data transfer, and breaking the IP paradigm are needed.

Moderator: Chee Yoke Ling (TWN)

Speakers: Ambassador Lachezara Stoeva (President of ECOSOC), Million Belay (African Food Sovereignty Alliance, Ethiopia), Maureen Penjueli (Pacific Network on Globalisation, Fiji), Dereje Alemayehu (GATJ), María Graciela Cuervo (DAWN, Dominican Republic), Anita Gurumurthy (IT for Change), Chantal Umuhoza

More from Plenary 2

"This year has been dedicated to the preparations of substantive outcomes and inputs for the so-called political declaration, to be adopted at summit level in September.

We look at our own High Level Political Forum in July as a pre-summit this year. So we already held the Partnership Forum, we are going to have the Financing for Development forum, the Youth Forum, and the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum. The coordination segment of ECOSOC, the humanitarian segment, the operational activities segment are all dedicated to the SDGs.

In all the forums and segments, civil society plays a key role. The Sustainable Development Goals, and the Doha Programme of Action, cannot be implemented without the participation of all stakeholders. This means all of you. You have to be ambitious on all aspects to push strongly, because the Sustainable Development Goals belong to everybody, It's a whole of society approach, and the same applies to the Doha Programme of Action. There are many synergies between the two, and one cannot do one without the other."

- **Lachezara Stoeva, President of UN ECOSOC**



Niko Humalisto

@NHumalisto

Loving the new perspectives presented in the discussions on economic justice in the UN's [#LDC5](#)

"Colonialists made us to produce what we do not consume, and to consume products that we do not want", [@DerejeAlemay](#) from Global Alliance of Tax Justice. [#economics](#)



*Ali Mazrui, Kenyan-American academic, quoted by Dereje Alemayehu (GATJ)

Round Table: Equity in Multilateralism

– Peace, Sustainable Development and Human Rights



- **ODA is not charity.** It's about the history of colonization, and commodity dependence. The global institutions don't serve LDCs but their former colonial masters.
- "Multilateral rules-based order" is Institutionally rigged. Bretton Woods Institutions are "one dollar, one vote". WTO, designed to be more equitable, limits policy space and cannot deliver development.
- African leaders set African agriculture as a priority. The Gates and Rockefeller Foundation created AGRA to support it, but 80% of the money stayed in the Global North.
- IMF must have a human rights-based approach. IMF debt relief package is small and full of conditionalities.
- **Trade agreements** are not fundamentally about trade; they favour global corporations and overprotects intellectual property, increasing monopolies, including of Big Pharma.
- Between 1990 and 2015, the drain from Global South to the North totalled \$242 trillion. The North has failed to meet the 2009 promise of \$100 billion a year in climate funding to the South.
- Consumption pattern of Global North is unsustainable. Climate justice implies radical transformations, equitable burden sharing and making food and energy a right for everyone.
- The 1986 declaration on the **right to development** declares that every human person and all peoples have the right to participate in, to contribute to, and to enjoy the benefits of development. Not only economic development, but cultural, political, social and economic development, and in its definition of development, it means development that is based on active, free and meaningful participation.

Moderator: Courtenay Rattray (Chef de Cabinet to the UN S-G)
Speakers: Meena Rahman (Friends of the Earth, Malaysia), Gita Sen (DAWN), Million Belay (AFSA), UK), Kumi Samuel (DAWN, Sri Lanka), Deborah James (OWINFS), Asad Rehman (War on Want, Diego Valladares (UN-OHCHR),

More from the Roundtable

"The North does not live up to its obligations well. LDCs were supposed to get from developed countries 0.15 to 0.2% of their gross national income. That pledge never happened. And in the Copenhagen COP in 2009, we were all supposed to get \$100 billion a year. That didn't happen either.

So, we have a job to do to restructure the whole system, and the Secretary-General has been calling for a **reform of the international financial architecture**, which was not created in the interests of developing countries and at a time when many developing countries didn't even exist. So we are trying to fix our current problem on the basis of a construct that is archaic and anachronistic."

- **Courtenay Rattray,**
Chef de Cabinet to the UN Secretary-General



Plenary 3: Financial Architecture & Policy Reforms

– Critical opportunities for LDCs



- **Private Finance** is not made available to LDCs in affordable terms while rich countries pay 1-2% interest rates.
- **Debt Service** cost has gone up to more than 20% of the revenue. New borrowing is no longer funding new investments but financing the old debts - *a debt trap*.
- Only 5 of 24 donor countries reached their **ODA** target commitments to LDCs. Aid is increasingly determined by geopolitical considerations.
- **International Financial Architecture**: LDCs are marginalized in the institutions that monitor, regulate and determine policies and loans.
- The Global North actually owes the South a huge **social, economic & ecological debt**. Historically, from the time of colonization till the present day, there's a net 2 trillion financial transfers from the South to the North.
- Majority of **aid** today is in the form of **loans** - private market-based solutions going through private entities or vehicles. This erodes the very notion of assistance & the responsibility of Northern governments.
- Low income countries included in the G77, led by the **African Group** at the UN, introduced a resolution which brings tax negotiations into the UN.
- **International tax rules**: in most cases, favours home countries of companies, not those countries where most profits are realized.
- **OECD** wants to be rule maker & standard setter. They are keeping laws and practices which were introduced in the early 1920s.
- **Undemocratic platform**: current fora where debt is being negotiated are lender-dominated; that's Northern governments & the multilateral financial institutions.
- Focussing on illicit financial flows and tax justice requires forgetting the **development aid logic**. This is not about a *charity*, increasing aid or the equivalent. **It is about recognizing rights**. Each country has the right to tax profits generated in its economy and to maintain resources it owns.

Moderator: Emilia Reyes (Equidad de Genero & Women's Working Group on FfD)
Speakers: Bodo Elmers (GPF-Europe), Jane Nalunga (SEATINI), Lidy Nacpil (Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development), Jason Braganza (Afrodad), Vitalice Meja (Reality of Aid Africa), Rodolfo Bejarano (Latindadd), Dereje Alemayehu (GATJ), Stefano Prato (Society for International Development)

More from Plenary 3

"Part of the problem why this global financial and economic system persists is because our own governments fail to take us in another direction. It is not just corruption. It is the kind of policies, programs and economic orientation that our governments in developing countries continue to perpetuate that keeps us enslaved by this kind of global economic system.

But most of the energy that we have should not be directed at engaging our governments, otherwise, they will not have the political will to call for their cancellation, to stand up to the lenders and the creditors, and they will not take our economies in a different direction, because right now the world is bleeding our economies dry and that sets the stage for continued reliance on borrowings.

We should not forget that part of our efforts should be directed at the **international financial and economic system**, because that is the system keeping us indebted, lending to our countries as a main form of response to whatever crisis we are facing. **Lending** is so hypocritical when they talk about it because they talk about lending to the South, to LDCs, to developing countries as a way of *helping*. But in fact, lending has been a form of **profit generation**, of sucking the wealth from our economies where we pay in many different ways, even in highly concessional lending, which is supposed to be 0 to 2% interest paid over long maturity dates, 30 years.

They benefit primarily not through interest, but from the economic policies that they impose in exchange for those loans, because those economic policies make sure that the elites in the big corporations continue to profit from our economies and we need to make sure that our economies move away from that direction."

- **Lidy Nacpil**,
Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)



Marina Durano
@marinadurano

Even highly concessional lending can be costly, especially when a long list of policy conditions are attached that do not deliver on promises of development, says @Inacpil @AsianPeoplesMvt #LDC5 @globalpolicy @gpolicywatch



Plenary 4: Food Systems & Agroecology

– Multiple objectives for LDCs



- We are in the midst of a **sovereign debt crisis**: poorest countries saw the costs of debt servicing increase by 35% in 2022. Action required must come on an unprecedented scale & address the structural drivers of debt. Often overlooked is the role of unsustainable, inequitable food systems in driving rising debt and hunger.
- Import dependencies, extractive financial flows, boom-bust commodity cycles, and climate-vulnerable food systems are destabilizing the finances of the world's poorest countries.
- 77 developing countries are now **net food importers**, and Africa's food import dependency has tripled in recent decades. This leaves countries exposed to food price spikes like in 2022 and requires them to earn dollars via export crops to keep importing staple foods and other essentials. As prices spiked in 2022, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa spent an additional \$4.8 billion on food imports while receiving less food overall.
- **Debt relief** must go hand-in-hand with transforming food systems and building resilience to climate change and other shocks. Among LDCs, **debt service** exceeds core social spending (on education, health, and social protection) by 125%.
- By shifting from input-intensive, export-oriented, industrial agriculture to diversified, agroecological food systems, low-income countries can cut crippling food, fertilizer, and energy dependencies. The ability of agroecology to deliver a pathway toward food security, sustainability, and resilience has become increasingly clear in the face of COVID-19 and climate shocks.
- It's not the small scale farmers that destroy the environment, but **industrial agriculture**.
- Traditional knowledge allows for culturally sensitive food production that recognizes the role of women.
- **Seed** is a cultural issue. Seed is the instrument for women to command the production cycle of the agrarian society. This is the key for empowerment – she is one that keeps, regenerates seeds and manages the household. The whole agrarian production system is based on the centrality of women's agency.

Moderators: Million Belay (AFSA)

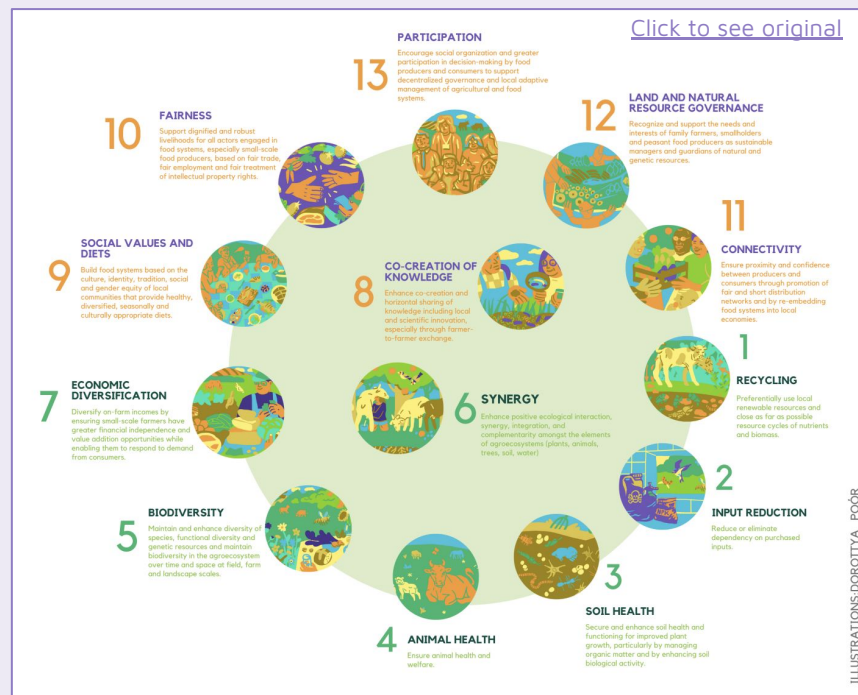
Speakers: Cantave Baptiste (Groundswell International), Farida Akhter (UBINIG, Bangladesh), Rehema Namaganda (FIAN, Uganda), Sophia Murphy (IATP), Stefano Prato (SID)

More from Plenary 4

"You can also get a story about **hope**. A story about more and not less on offer, especially in these developing countries that are not yet so dependent on chemical fertilizers, that still have farmer seed systems and rely on one another to support that diversity where seeds are adapted to the conditions where people are working.

One of the criteria that defines a country as 'least developed' is the extent to which you depend on agriculture, that is seen as a weakness and not strength. Part of the point of **agroecology** and **food sovereignty** is to defy that assertion and to say that there are other things from our economy that we want than gross national products, and we get those things from vibrant, healthy food systems."

- **Sophia Murphy, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**



Resources from the session:

- IPES: [Special Report on Debt & Food Crisis](#)
- [Agroecological Farming in Haiti: A Poverty Crisis Solution](#)
- [13 principles of agroecology](#)
- [IATP article on LDCs](#)

Plenary 5: LDCs and Work

– Informality, Care and Migration



- Decent work and economic growth go hand in hand. The **socio-economic impacts** of trade and **trade policies** depend on the structure, the markets and institutions embedded within them.
 - Unequal **gender division** of unpaid work: women face a double burden of participating at both paid & unpaid work; globally, women provide over 75% of total hours of unpaid work.
 - Development policies need to put the care society at the centre of its policy-making agenda.
 - Some temporary **social protection** measures & mechanisms put in place for the informal workers emerged as a critical social safety net during the health crisis.
 - Women's work, **care work** & **social reproduction** are invisible and undervalued, as if the care work done by women could not be part of any structural transformation or industrialization project.
 - Structural transformation can happen with care: 1) by “monetizing,” paying proper wages to care workers; and 2) for the care economy to be the goal of structural transformation.
 - Care work should not be thought as happening in the household, but a community of **care workers delivering on SDGs**.
 - Most of the economies in Africa (72% LDCs) are informal, with Uganda's 94% as the highest.
 - Informality does not equal poverty, and **formalization** without proper progressive tax systems can increase vulnerabilities.
 - Teachers, nurses, & others so-called “**essential workers**,” are not treated (or paid) as such.
 - We need to move from charitable standalone ways of recognition of care work to a legal framework.
 - A broader spectrum of care work beyond early childhood development: care for disabled persons, the elderly, the sick, etc. A more harmonized & comprehensive system that is also **publicly funded** & affordable is needed.
 - Care work policies & social protection need to be part of addressing all other issues like climate crisis, security, and macroeconomics. Solutions need to be sustainable and systematic; to do this, migration needs to be normalized as a natural part of our global community.
- Moderator: María Graciela Cuervo (DAWN)
Speakers: Paul Akiwumi, Director for Africa and Least Developed Countries (UNCTAD), Marina Durano, Adviser on Care Economy and Partnership Engagement (UNI Global Union, Care Economy & Social Protection), Chantal Umuhiza (SPECTRA), Gita Sen (DAWN)

More from Plenary 5

"We have to think about this both as domestic and international financial architecture, asking ourselves what kind of financial architecture facilitates care and caring?"

What is the role of sounder central banks in an industrialization strategy? What we're really talking about is asking ourselves about **credit allocation, banking supervision** and **monetary policy**. These three aspects are essential to shaping who gets access to money and finance. Credit allocation policies need to be redefined for money to actually flow into a priority sector.

Central banks are public institutions. That's our tax money. So as public institutions, they must serve a public purpose and in this project of structural transformation, care could be one of those public purpose projects."

- **Marina Durano, UNI Global Union**



Round Table:

Linking economic, ecological and gender justice



- An **intersectional approach** is needed to ensure universal access to the right to health.
- The **treaty bodies** framed access to health during the pandemic as a human rights issue, but Member States need to avoid repression of rights guaranteed in the treaties while debating emergencies of international concern.
- **Gender inequality** has been put to the front row during the pandemic. Our system is still a heavy by product of colonialism, which emphasizes structural violence.
- Women are not included in the structuring of laws and policies but are directly impacted by it, such as austerity measures.
- **Models** designed external to our countries tend to be one size fits all, which undermines political work with the community, and women are the most affected.
- Current problems of poor governance, impunity and corruption are rooted in the colonial construct of violence.
- Missing link in these conversations is how to make people at the local level aware of the political issues in order to bring support on the international level.
- Idea of **extraterritoriality**: when countries report to the **CEDAW** committee, they should mention external responsibilities also. What does your cooperation do outside of the country? What are your multinationals doing in Africa? What does it mean for the women in Africa?
- Pacific islands, one of last remaining regions with healthy fish stock (but threatened by climate change), are moving from primary producer to processing fish and creating more jobs for women.
- Work is needed to retain high skill labour in industry employing mainly women; Marshall Islands were able to launch its first scientific expedition led by women, funded by revenues from fish industry.

Moderator: Gita Sen (DAWN)

Speakers: Maureen Penjueli (PANG), Kumi Samuel (DAWN),
Lesley-Ann Foster (Masimanyane Women's Rights International)

More from the Roundtable

“We need to learn how to use all these systems. We need to have women in decision making. We cannot rely on the good will of men in the government; we have to rely on our agency and work on the ‘know how’ to elevate collective power.”

- **Lesley Ann Foster,**
Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre



Plenary 6:

Planetary Health & Peoples' Health



- LDCs are rich in natural resources; but because of the **extractivism**, the unsustainable production & consumption in the Global North, we find that the environment is scarred and people are stuck.
 - UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, we are on a highway to climate crisis, with our foot on the accelerator.
 - The principle of **common but differentiated responsibility (CbDR)** in the Paris Agreement is absolutely critical; from the historical responsibility of those who have been emitting more. They owe a climate debt.
 - **Equality & equity**: the developed countries are supposed to do much of the emission reductions first.
 - The total **carbon budget** is 2956 Gigatons of carbon. Already, 83% has been taken up by the cumulative emissions. What's left is 500 Gigatons to limit the temperature rise, and we are emitting 41 gigatons of carbon every year. By 10-12 years, this budget will be gone, the 1.5 degrees limit will be surpassed.
 - There's a **corporate capture of nature**; we must be careful about greenwashing with language like ESG & "net-zero".
 - In terms of biodiversity, those who should drive the narratives - the Global South, indigenous peoples & local communities - are overshadowed by Global North **narratives**. Work must be done with the education sector to influence youths, who have the energy but not capacities, and reshape the narratives.
 - We need to move away from extractivist logic; Africa needs to develop based on its resources. The Africa Mining Vision acknowledges the contradictions, but also tells how it can integrate and use its competitive/comparative advantage for its own development, doesn't ignore extracting responsibly, meets environmental and social needs, speaks about transparency & accountability (i.e., IFFs), recognizes artisanal and small-scale miners and doesn't ignore the livelihoods of the majority of African people. **Resources of Africa should be used for its betterment.**
 - Multilateral institutions are very important in health; but there are big challenges in fighting for political space in those institutions. There's very little **governance** happening.
 - Alliances and implementation matter; the Africa block was very influential in winning the flexibility for antiretroviral production.
- Moderators: Asad Rehman (War on Want) & Chee Yoke Ling (TWN)
Speakers: Darlington Muyambwa (Southern Africa Resource Watch),
Meenakshi Raman (Friends of the Earth), Melina Sakiyama (Global
Biodiversity Youth Network, Brazil), Lauren Paremoer (People's
Health Movement, South Africa), Tetteh Hormeku (Africa Trade
Network)

More from Plenary 6

Lessons to be learned from Global South experiences:

Regional market as a domestic market - possible to have more capable countries as “hubs.” Transnational Corporations (TNCs) are picking up the regional hubs.

Countries don't implement the **WTO flexibilities** because they don't have the capabilities. Africa needs to revisit the market that they have as a first step. Dealing one-on-one is not effective.

Different African leaders took manufacturing products as part of health policy. **Investment and coordination** - Not to simply ensure that hospitals have access to products, but also build knowledge on production.

Holistic system approach to building pharmaceutical capacity. From 1960-1980, almost every African country built a pharmaceutical industry, but with Structural Adjustment Programme “they” became privatized.

South-South cooperation: Need to think about “Southern brothers” and think as suppliers. 1980s. Cuba always sent doctors to Africa. Africa contributed for Phase 3 trials and Cuba shared the technology.

- **Tetteh Hormeku, Africa Trade Network**



COP 28 — Dubai — Dec 2023 - key issues

Loss and Damage Fund

Key for success -Unity of G77/China; Efforts to divide and rule; Who is more vulnerable?

New Collective Goal on Finance

Who pays? Already decided. Article 9 Paris Agreement

100 billion promise delivery

Not more financialisation and private sector

Doubling adaptation finance

Can the IMF & World Bank/MDBs be reformed? Problem of governance. UNFCCC funds - Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, LDC Fund.

Just Transitions

Mitigation Work Programme

Debt for Nature Swap? Big debate- additionality? Conditionality? Is it a solution?

Global Stocktake

- **Meena Rahman, TWN & SAM**

Special Event

South-South Cooperation Ministerial Meeting Statement by Chee Yoke Ling (Third World Network)



Global Policy Watch

@gpolicywatch

Chee Yoke Ling @3rdworldnetwork at #LDC5 South-South Cooperation Ministerial Meeting 🇵🇸:

"The principle of solidarity underlying South-South & North-South cooperation is the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (#CbDR) & #equity."



"The total **debt service** for LDCs was \$31 billion in 2020 and UNCTAD expects it to rise in 2022 to 43 billion. Africa alone is losing about 88.6 billion in the year 2020 in illicit capital flows, and that includes **tax evasion** to tax havens in the North.

"When we talk about financial flows, we talk about the trap of commodities for the LDCs, especially to supply the global market. These inequities actually hide the fact that **the real creditor is actually the South**, including LDCs.

"This has to be reversed, and civil society supports the statement by the UNSG in February of this year. At the heart of the problem is the **international financial architecture**. We cannot afford the simple evolution of the system. We need to have radical transformation.

"For civil society, debt cancellation & multilateral cooperation, to have a **tax convention** as approved last year by the UNGA Second Committee, are very important. We need to have a multilateral legal framework to deal with burdensome, crushing debt of the South, especially LDCs."

Plenary 7: Digital economy & Sustainable Development

– Issues at Stake



- We see data as driving the fundamentals of economic reorganization; data drives the world of wealth & power, centralization and concentration.
- Internet as the global infrastructure is controlled by the jurisdictional powers of ONE country - USA.
- The model of the **digitalization** story is about two things: the lack of democratic integrity & the lack of distributive integrity.
- LDC governments need to adopt fundamental moves to protect their strategic interests, in particular in agricultural digitalization.
- **Commercialization** of data: Does the government assure us that the data taken from a particular Community will actually benefit the Community itself?
- 2 main drivers of the digital economy: **data & platformization**.
- Governing data and the way data is generated, controlled and accessed around the world could be a tremendous opportunity for advancing sustainable development, including in LDCs.
- Five platforms account now for 70% of the global revenues online from advertising, up from 50%: growing wealth concentration.
- The **Global Digital Compact** is an opportunity for the CSOs to organize and provide strong voices on how to have inclusive, sustainable development coming out of the digital world.
- **E-commerce** is not the fundamental way that digitalization can benefit developing countries; it's through data for the public good, i.e., improving public services, e-governance, etc.
- The model we have for data right now is very privatized; data is seen to be owned by who collects it.
- The business model of **parasitic data corporations**: specific rules allow foreign corporations to intervene in domestic policy-making process to gain the right to transfer data out of the country without it being able to have access to it. Through a digital trade agreement, they will be able to keep all of their revenues without having to contribute to the local tax base.
- **LDCs are an MSME economy**; the capacity of MSMEs & their digital skills must be developed to be able to participate in digitalization. Build the capacity of LDCs to tax digital platforms, with competition policies to govern data, the digital economy, and e-commerce.

Moderator: Anita Gurumurthy (IT for Change)

Speakers: Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head of E-commerce & Digital Economy Branch (UNCTAD) Africa Kiiza (PhD Fellow at Hamburg University, Uganda) Neth Dano, Asia Director (ETC Group), Tesfit Gebremeskel Gebreslassie (Europe External Programme with Africa, Ethiopia), Deborah James (OWINFS)

More from Plenary 7

"Think about bringing ourselves back to what is concretely the situation in LDCs, the challenges of people who are being left behind, and also reminding ourselves that the international community cannot afford to be distracted by sexy things like the digital economy when you haven't even fulfilled your commitment to the 2030.

For many whose resources are scarce, in particular in the case of LDCs, it could be a choice between building 5G infrastructures, making smartphones affordable to your population who don't have access to electricity, versus providing more schools, providing more farm to market roads. And maybe for some, some will probably make the ridiculous choice of promoting drones over building farms to market roads. So tell me, how do you then transport sacks of corn to the market?"

- **Neth Dano, Asia Director of Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)**



Global Policy Watch
@gpolicywatch

...

#LDC5 #CSOForum

Anita Gurumurthy @ITforChange on #DigitalEconomy & #SustainableDevelopment:

"How can public law interact with private law? How can public institutional data interact with the rest of the economy? This question needs to be democratically discussed."



Special Event

Dialogue between UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) & civil society: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DPoA AT COUNTRY LEVEL



Moderator: Chee Yoke Ling (TWN)
Resident Coordinators' panel: Nepal,
Lesotho, Djibouti

- Part of RC's role is to ensure to bring all that knowledge that exists in civil society to the front. When we look at government mechanism for accountability, whenever you have a strong civil society, you have strong agency.
- UN needs NGOs; on influencing policy advocacy, UN and CSOs could work even better.
- RC's role is to be close to the government, to be the bridge to the government regardless of who the government is and ensure that UN remains to be able to do its work.
- RCs have access to the government; CSOs should use the UN/RCs to indirectly influence the government. CSOs should be able to influence governments directly, but may use UN when that is difficult/impossible.
- CSOs can help RCs see the real situation; otherwise RCs only get an orchestrated view of the situation.
- RCs are still accountable to the Human Rights declaration & UN Charter. Difficult conversations with governments will happen behind closed door, but no openly political statements can be expected of RCs.
- UN is not a donor; it only funds specific projects. But it may be able to direct CSOs to where they can get funding.
- Only through civil society/RC partnerships that certain marginalized groups can have access and participation to different processes.

"Our door is always open. We might not have the solution to a specific problem, but come to us, and we will assist you in finding a solution."

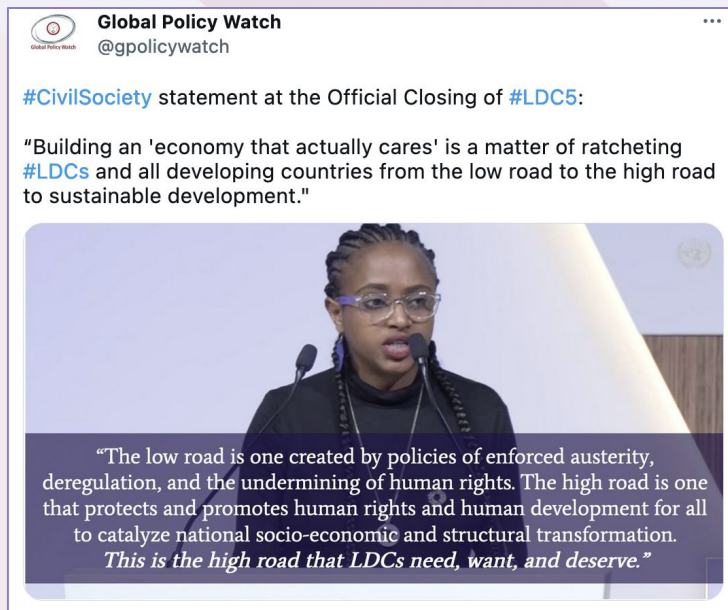
Plenary 8: Closing of the Civil Society Forum

- The SDGS are failing, mostly in LDCs.
- The **international financial architecture** needs to be transformed. It is not fit for purpose. You cannot design something in 1945 and expect it to work in 2023.
- We also are looking at the **new peace architecture**, because the context is one of massive insecurity.
- There is a major concern that the partnerships that are needed on Goal 17 to respond to what countries need are absent.
- We cannot, in developing countries, be looking for credit at six, eight, 10 or 12% and other parts of the world are looking at 1% or 2%.
- **Fiscal space** must be there, so that we can attend to the most vulnerable. This is not about just low income countries and middle income countries. Overnight, a climate crisis, a war, can put you in a vulnerable state.
- Two indexes, measures that need to change: 1) **multi-vulnerability index**; 2) going **beyond GDP**.
- Ask Resident Coordinators to convene around the issues, but please don't do it in your silos. Don't do it in just civil society, convening happens with major stakeholders.
- While you are unlikely to sit in the same room, the UN still has the capacity, and is still the partner of choice for governments to convene.



UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed
Barbara Adams (GPF), Roberto Bissio (Social Watch), Chee Yoke Ling (TWN)

Civil Society Statement at Official LDC5 Closing



[Official LDC5 Closing](#)

"Many of the constraints to an LDC's ability to achieve sustainable development & peace are exacerbated by external factors, and civil society actors working nationally and locally are committed to working with colleagues in LDCs as well as regionally and globally.

Many gaps remain between the goals and aspirations of LDCs & implementation... Not only is the international community failing to reduce this marginalization, monetary & fiscal policies foster it...

Multilateral trade rules create some exemptions for LDCs, but the terms of their integration into international markets remain unfair... The COVID-19 pandemic & the unjust response to it have further marginalized the ability of LDCs to protect their residents...

LDCs face particular challenges due to limitations of finance, capital equipment and infrastructure. A large part of their economic production & distribution depends heavily on human labour, paid & unpaid, and takes place in small farms, households, and SMEs.

CSOs expressed concern about the abundance of false solutions or unfulfilled promises for LDCs & called for respect of human rights and fundamental principles for the sustainable development of LDCs, primary amongst them the principle of #CbDR and Respective Capabilities."

- Full statement text ([EN](#)/[FR](#)) & [video](#)