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**News:** Doha Political Declaration

## **Doha Political Declaration on Least Developed**

### **Countries – LDC 5**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC–5) concluded with adoption of the ‘Doha Political Declaration’ by the world leaders.

#### **Highlights of the Declaration**

##### **Doha Programme of Action**

- Doha Programme of Action focuses on implementing the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA), the 10-year plan to put the world’s 46 most vulnerable countries back on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- DPoA for the Decade (2022-2031) was agreed upon during the first part of the LDC5 conference in March 2022 in New York, the US.

DPoA (2022-2031) consisted of Six Key Focus Areas,

- Eradicating Poverty, Leveraging the potential of science and technology to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the SDGs, Addressing Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Recovering from Covid-19 and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development.

### **Need for the Declaration**

- The 46 LDCs are being hit the hardest by multiple crises including the Covid-19 Pandemic, Climate Crisis, growing Inequalities, rising Debt Burdens and economic shocks.
- They have contributed minimally to Carbon Dioxide Emissions, but disproportionately bear the burden of climate change impacts.
- These countries, which include 33 African nations, face the challenge of high debt costs while having inadequate liquidity to provide essential services.
- The LDCs are the worst performers on the progress made towards achieving SDGs, according to the Sustainable Development Report 2022.

## Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

- Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are a group of countries identified by the United Nations as having the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development.
- These countries are characterized by high levels of poverty, low levels of human capital, and limited access to basic services, such as healthcare and education.
- Currently, there are 46 countries on the United Nations' list of LDCs. Africa (33), Asia (9), and Caribbean (1): Haiti and Pacific (3): Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a group of independent experts that report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
- Following a triennial review of the list, the CDP may recommend, in its report to ECOSOC, countries for addition to the list or graduation from LDC status.
- India's neighbours Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal are included in the list of LDCs presently.

## Economic and Social Council

- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for **coordinating the economic and social fields of the organization**, specifically in regards to the 15 specialized agencies, the eight functional commissions and the five regional commissions under its jurisdiction.
- The Council consists of **54 Members States**, which are **elected yearly by the General Assembly** for overlapping **three-year terms**.
- Seats on the Council are **allotted based on geographical representation** with 14 allocated to African states, 11 to Asian states, six to Eastern European states, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean states and 13 to western European and other states.
- India was a member in ECOSOC from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. **India has been reelected for its next term starting from 2022 along with Afghanistan, Oman and Kazakhstan from Asia - Pacific category.**
- The **president of the Council is elected for a one-year term** and chosen from the small- or mid-sized powers represented on the Council at the beginning of each new session. The presidency rotates among the United Nations Regional Groups to ensure equal representation.