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Press release

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# Advancing sustainable development in LDCs: UNOPS attending the 5th conference on Least Developed Countries


A senior UNOPS delegation will attend the Doha Programme of Action in the Qatari capital this week

- The 5th conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) will take place from 05-09 March in Doha, Qatar.
- Leaders from across the world will be in attendance to discuss how to accelerate the delivery of the sustainable development goals in 46 LDCs by 2030.
- A senior UNOPS delegation, including the acting Executive Director, will attend to discuss the need for the right investments in infrastructure to tackle the climate emergency in LDCs

Over five days of the LDC5 Conference in Doha, world leaders will gather with representatives from the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians, and young people to advance new ideas on how to support the world's least developed countries, through the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA).

The conference will focus on six key areas:

1. Investing in people, eradicating poverty and building capacity
2. Leveraging the power of science, technology & innovation
3. Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity
4. Enhancing international trade and regional integration
5. Tackling climate change, COVID-19 & building resilience
6. Mobilizing international partnerships for sustainable graduation

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Least developed countries (LDCs) represent around 880 million people. That is 13 per cent of the world's population. The United Nations currently deems 46 countries to be least developed based on their high vulnerability to external economic shocks, natural and human-made disasters and communicable diseases. LDCs confront the biggest barriers to sustainable development. They face energy poverty, limited access to markets, lack of productive capacity and climate vulnerability.

The aim of the conference is to reach an agreement on the DPoA, so that actions resulting from it will help the LDCs to address their most pressing issues. This includes the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as the resulting negative socio-economic impacts, achieving the SDGs, and working towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.


Together with our partners, UNOPS already implements a broad range of sustainable development projects in LDCs, from helping build critical public infrastructure, to strengthening resilience, supporting socio-economic development, expanding health sector capacity, and helping protect communities from the worst effects of the climate emergency. Our senior delegation will be in Doha to discuss the need for the right investments in infrastructure to tackle the climate emergency in LDCs.

**UNOPS acting Executive Director, Jens Wandel said:**

"UNOPS is already present in many of the 46 LDCs. We are working with our partners to support vulnerable communities and deliver sustainable development.

"This conference provides a good opportunity to see how we can strengthen collaborations and best use our capacities to support these countries to make progress on the path towards prosperity."

**ENDS**

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Notes to the editors:

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**About UNOPS**

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: [www.unops.org](http://www.unops.org)