

LDCs present VNRs at the HLPF 13 – 15 July 2021

By Barbara Adams and Tejaswini Vavilala

Two days ago at the opening of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) the head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, addressed the problem of inequalities-- inside households, within national economies and across different countries. Concerning “vaccine inequality”, she added that as of 1 July there had been 1.3 doses per 100 people in least developed countries (LDCs) compared with 83 doses per 100 people in developed countries.

Six weeks ago, on 24-28 May, Member States met in the first Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fifth Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) to be held 23-27 January 2022 in Doha, Qatar. The second PrepCom session will take place on 26-30 July 2021 and will launch negotiations on the Programme of Action for LDCs for the next decade, a decade that coincides with the last decade of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This is the last HLPF before the Doha conference / LDC5. During the HLPF Ministerial segment of the HLPF, eight LDCs will present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), making a total of 53 LDC VNR presentations over the last six years, many by countries for the second, and some for a third, time.

Table 1 lists the LDCs, their VNR presentations and contains links (denoted by X) to the individual national reports.

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Afghanistan		X				X	
Angola						X	
Bangladesh		X			X		
Benin		X	X		X		
Bhutan			X			X	
Burkina Faso				X			
Burundi					X		
Cambodia				X			
Central African Republic				X			
Chad				X		X	

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Comoros					<u>X</u>		
Democratic Republic of the Congo				<u>X</u>			
Djibouti							X
Eritrea							
Ethiopia		<u>X</u>					
Gambia					<u>X</u>		
Guinea					<u>X</u>		
Guinea-Bissau							
Haiti							
Kiribati			<u>X</u>				
Lao People's Democratic Republic			<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>	
Lesotho				<u>X</u>			
Liberia					<u>X</u>		
Madagascar	<u>X</u>					<u>X</u>	
Malawi					<u>X</u>		
Mali			<u>X</u>				
Mauritania				<u>X</u>			
Mozambique					<u>X</u>		
Myanmar							
Nepal		<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>		
Niger			<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	
Rwanda				<u>X</u>			
Sao Tome and Principe							
Senegal			<u>X</u>				
Sierra Leone	<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>	
Solomon Islands					<u>X</u>		
Somalia							
South Sudan							
Sudan			<u>X</u>				
Timor-Leste				<u>X</u>			
Togo	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>				
Tuvalu							
Uganda	<u>X</u>				<u>X</u>		
United Republic of Tanzania				<u>X</u>			
Yemen							
Zambia					<u>X</u>		

The Presidents of the UN General Assembly and the ECOSOC, the Secretary-General, as well as CSO representatives, have sounded the alarm on the complex agenda facing the LDCs, an agenda that requires quality policy responses across many inter-governmental processes and fora, such as the WTO, to shape a robust and meaningful Doha Programme of Action.

For more information, follow the [Global Policy Watch Monitors](https://www.globalpolicywatch.org/blog/category/un-monitor/) on the website:
<https://www.globalpolicywatch.org/blog/category/un-monitor/>

Social Watch

Avda. 18 de Julio 2095/301
Montevideo 11200, Uruguay
socwatch@socialwatch.org
www.socialwatch.org

Global Policy Watch

205 E 42nd St | 20th Fl
New York, NY 10017, USA
globalpolicywatch.org

Global Policy Forum

Koenigstrasse 37a
53115 Bonn, Germany
gpf@globalpolicy.org
www.globalpolicy.org