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As Second Committee Takes Up Countries in Special Situations, Speakers Call for Intensified Efforts to Fully Implement Istanbul Programme of Action

The current global financial and economic crisis underscored development's the least developed countries, which, if which continued, "threatened to undermine the achievements of the Istanbul Programme of Action," Ms. Kaitlin Cordes, Chief of Development Policy and Analysis, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, told the Second Committee of countries in special situations.

She highlighted the need for the full implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, and supported initiatives that would enable them to reach the stage of graduation.

Several other delegates also called for intensified efforts to implement the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action. Many underscored the importance of ensuring that countries in special situations can continue to participate in global discussions on issues that impact them, such as climate change, international migration, human health, education and technology issues.

Ms. Cordes said that the Programme of Action, "according to Istanbul's expectations, has been a blind of hope." Nevertheless, the current global crisis "threatens to undermine the achievements of the Istanbul." On the other hand, there was a considerable increase in foreign direct investment to these countries over the 2011-2015 period, compared to the previous five years.

On the same issue, Nepal's representative noted that most least developed countries were off-track on the Programme of Action's goals, and that the current global financial and economic crisis "threatens to undermine the achievements of the Istanbul Programme of Action." Nepal's representative also underscored the importance of the actual transition "are lingering longer."

Specifically, in a country with landlocked status, the least developed status, the representative of Mongolia said, "we are facing the challenge of the transition." Mongolia's representative said that "we are on the brink. After graduation, the difficult transition." Mongolia's representative also underscored the importance of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which "has been a very important tool for us."

Another issue discussed at the meeting was the special situation of landlocked developing countries, which Mongolia's representative said "are particularly vulnerable." Mongolia's representative said that "we are on a single commodity, and that economic growth was vulnerable to external fiscal crisis and volatile commodity prices."

In that context, several delegations highlighted the need to raise and enhance programmes of action for these countries in special situations. Mongolia's representative said that "we are in the process of preparing our second programme of action to address the challenges."