



Doha Political Declaration on LDCs

Prelims: Doha Political Declaration, Least Developed Countries, United Nations, SDGs, Climate Change, Covid-19.

Mains: Doha Political Declaration on LDCs.

Why in News?

The 5th [United Nations](#) Conference on the **Least Developed Countries (LDC5)** concluded with adoption of the '**Doha Political Declaration**' by the world leaders.

- The declaration is a key outcome of the **second part of LDC5 conference** held under the theme "**From Potential to Prosperity**" in Qatar.

What are the Key Highlights of the Declaration?

- **Doha Programme of Action:**
 - It 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
 - 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](#).

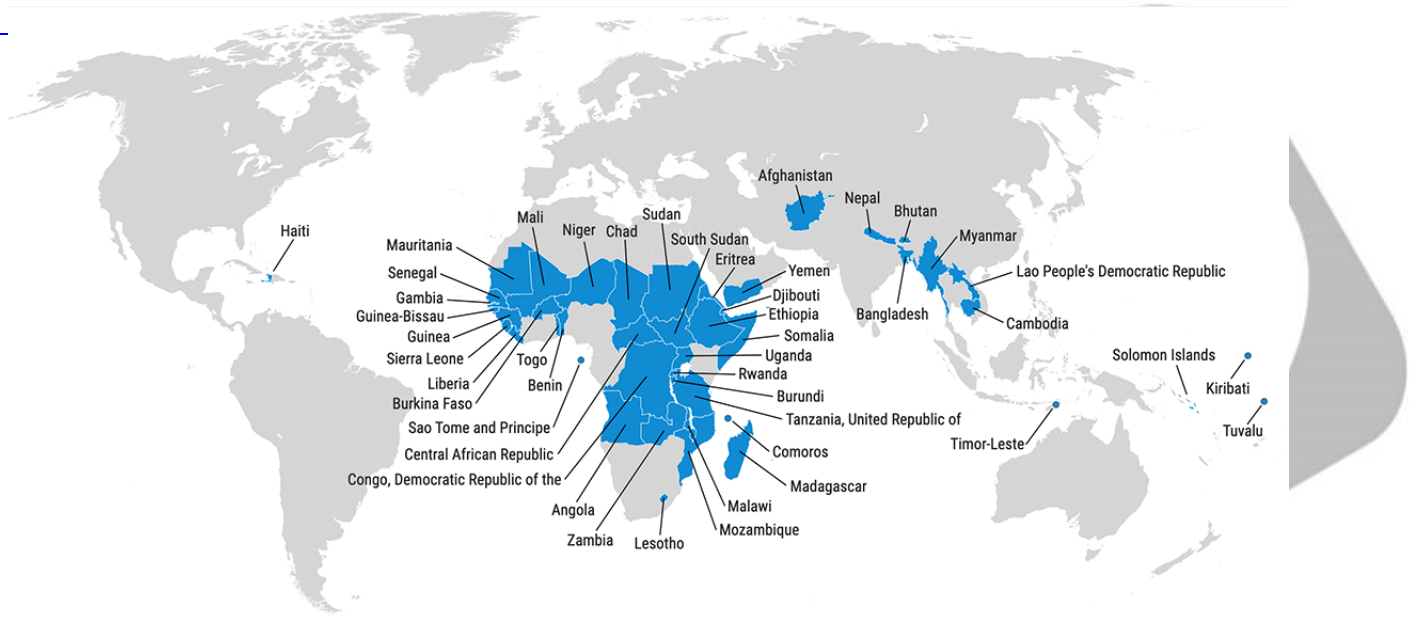
What are LDCs?

- 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);
 - Caribbean (1): Haiti;
 - 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.

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