Seventy-eighth session
Agenda item 20 (a)
Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up
to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least
Developed Countries

Online university for least developed countries

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Member States committed to undertaking feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms to support online graduate and post-graduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in least developed countries and recently graduated countries. In the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (General Assembly resolution 76/258, annex), the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources, to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for its consideration.

2. The preparation of the report requires extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders in order to enable the Secretary-General to submit a report with recommendations on an online university or other equivalent platforms for least developed countries.

3. The report of the Secretary-General will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration in March 2024.