

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
(UN-OHRLLS)**

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

The Office of the High Representative focuses its advocacy work to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since 34 of the 50 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 15 out of the 31 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and 6 out of the 37 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are in Africa. It continues to seize every opportunity to place their concerns at the forefront of the global agenda. NEPAD and the Brussels Programme of Action are intrinsically linked and they both have integrated the MDGs.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Building on the results of the advocacy work undertaken by the United Nations since the adoption of the Brussels Programme in 2001, in 2007 the Office introduced the Advocacy Strategy on the Effective and Timely Implementation of the Programme of Action. The strategy aims at accelerating the implementation of the Programme by increasing awareness about its objectives, goals and commitments among all stakeholders. It lays out the actions that will be undertaken in the next three years by the United Nations, in collaboration with key partners, to draw attention to the shortfalls, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Brussels Programme, with special emphasis on areas where progress has been lacking or limited. Advocacy activities will focus on:

- Increased mobilization of both domestic and external resources for poverty eradication in the LDCs;
- expanding trade opportunities for LDCs through full and effective access of their products to the markets of the developed countries and strengthening the trade capacity of LDCs;
- improving the availability and quality of infrastructure and services in the transport, communication, energy and social sectors in the LDCs;
- expanding opportunities for productive employment in the LDCs through increased access to financial services, private sector investment and development of human capital;
- reducing the environmental vulnerability of the LDCs, including vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, through enhanced resilience and adaptation capacity.

The Office engaged in the following substantive events on key themes of relevance to LDCs:

- a) The ministerial conference on *Making Globalisation Work for LDCs* which was held on 8-9 July 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey, focused on the beneficial integration of LDCs in the global economy. It drew attention to the marginalization of LDCs in the global economy, addressing key constraints faced by LDCs in the following economic areas: agriculture, trade and investment, technology and energy. The Conference explored the role of South-South cooperation, and welcomed the Government of Turkey's contribution to assist the LDCs in their efforts to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication. This includes the allocation of \$5 million for small and medium scale development projects, and a pledge of \$1 million to the Trust Fund of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance for the Least Developed Countries. In addition, a substantial part of a \$15 million fund was earmarked to LDCs for the implementation of projects through the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA).
- b) The *National Focal Points Workshop* was held in Geneva on 18 July 2007. This was the fourth in the series of such workshops aimed at building the national capacity of LDCs for the follow-up to, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. The workshop was organized in collaboration with UNCTAD and FAO. The workshop focused on the role of agriculture and agricultural productivity in achieving the objectives of Programme and identifying priority actions in the agricultural sector in the face of climate change and in the context of sustainable development.
- c) UN-OHRLLS co-organized the *Regional Consultations on Migration, Remittances and Development* on 4-5 September 2007 in Accra, Ghana, in collaboration with UNDP. The consultations built upon previous work of the Office in this area and addressed both the supply and demand side of remittances. They provided recommendations to governments, financial institutions, civil society and international development agencies, in sending and receiving countries, on creating employment, improving the quality of life of the poor people and achieving the MDGs. The Regional Consultations in Africa were preceded by national consultations, organized with the assistance of the UN Resident Coordinators. The aim of the Regional Consultations was to:
- create an intra-Africa dialogue, including with the Diaspora and to explore strategic options with the view to maximizing the developmental impact of remittances;
 - provide recommendations for actions (including through public private partnerships) by the relevant stakeholders; and
 - assist the UN RCs in focusing on this area at the country level, with due attention to the special needs of LDCs.
- d) *WMO Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop for LDCs in Africa*, on 10-

12 September 2007 in Entebbe, Uganda. As a follow-up to the special event on "Weather, Climate and Water Services for Development and Disaster Mitigation in LDCs" held in New York in September 2006, the workshop brought together national focal points for the implementation of the Brussels Programme for LDCs and the heads of national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS). The workshop promoted a better understanding of the contribution of weather, climate and related services to the socio-economic development of LDCs.

The UN-OHRLLS Leadership and Capacity Development Initiative supports country partners in the design and delivery of programmes that develop leadership and enhance capacity for addressing country-specific development issues. They build on the existing opportunities and the unique strengths of individuals, communities and organisations as a means of achieving development change. During the reporting period, OHRLLS supported partners in the following countries:

- Djibouti: Leadership for Results: A multi-sector response using gender and HIV as the entry point for social change;
- Ethiopia: Building capacity of youth partnering with the InterAction Leadership Programme;
- Senegal: Initiative for transformational development: Looking into the future and Preparing for it;
- Somalia: Leadership and Capacity Building focusing in Crisis situations;
- Sudan: Leadership Development for Strengthening Community Responses;
- Uganda: Building Capacity of high potential youth from Uganda on Leadership for Change;
- Zambia: Leadership towards achieving the Brussels' Programme of Action, including MDGs.

UN-OHRLLS and the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) initiated a project engaging parliaments in the monitoring and review of the Brussels Programme. The project seeks to:

- help generate greater awareness in each LDC parliament about the Brussels Programme and establish firm recognition of the Programme's importance in addressing the special development needs of LDCs and achieving the internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
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- become a gateway for information from the United Nations and related agencies and programmes on development strategies and approaches for the LDCs;
- exercise oversight of government activities from the perspective of the Brussels Programme and related goals. These objectives were consistent with the outcome

of the World Summit 2005 and the 108th IPU Congress in 2003.

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/212, decided to hold a midterm review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2008. The review shall be preceded by regional and substantive preparations. The midterm review provides the international community with a unique opportunity to make the assessment of the progress made in establishing efficient transit transport systems in the landlocked regions around the world and agree on what needs to be done to further galvanize global partnerships to assist landlocked and transit developing countries to effectively implement the Almaty Programme of Action.

During the reporting period, the Office organized two substantive/thematic meetings with a view to providing the main substantive inputs to the midterm review. These two meetings addressed the physical and non-physical aspects of the transit trade of landlocked developing countries:

- A Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 18 to 20 June 2007. During the Ouagadougou Meeting, delegations clearly identified constraints suffered by their countries at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels. In their declarations and presentations they set up priorities and proposed actions to be considered in the preparatory process to the mid-term review in 2008. These focused on the following areas:
 - (i) preservation and strengthening of the existing transit facilities through appropriate maintenance;
 - (ii) interconnection of opening-up highway missing links connecting landlocked developing countries;
 - (iii) improvement of traffic free flow;
 - (iv) sustainability of transport infrastructure
- A thematic meeting on international trade and trade facilitation was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 30 to 31 August 2007. The Meeting reviewed and assessed the progress made in the implementation of priority three of the Almaty Programme of Action, as well as deliberated on future actions needed to enhance the LLDCs' participation in the international trading system while further strengthening the global partnership for establishing efficient transit transport systems.

Regional reviews will be conducted in 2008, including in Africa, with the relevant UN regional commissions playing a leading role. Their outcomes will focus on the assessment of transit transport systems in their respective regions, preferably to include a list of deliverables necessary for establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked developing countries.