

**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 2008 to June 2009

The mandate of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) focuses on policy development, coordination, advocacy, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Almaty Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries and the Mauritius Strategy for the Small Island Developing States. Africa is the cross-cutting priority for the work of the UN-OHRLLS. The Office's work is particularly relevant to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since 33 LDCs (Cape Verde graduated in December 2007), 15 LLDCs and 6 SIDS are in Africa. The Office seizes every opportunity to place the concerns of the vulnerable African countries at the forefront of the global agenda.

NEPAD and the Brussels Programme of Action are intrinsically linked and they both have integrated the MDGs. The synergies between these two programmes make them mutually supportive and complementary, such that progress on the goals of one programme contributes to the progress of the other programme, and vice versa. The Office has continued to implement its Advocacy Strategy aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Programme by increasing awareness about its objectives, goals and commitments among all stakeholders. The Office also works closely with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) in this regard. The Office substantially contributed to the High level workshop on Africa Trade, held in Izmir, Turkey, on 4-5 March 2008. The Workshop focused on the main development challenges of African LDCs with a view to identifying a collaborative course of action to accelerate the pace of economic development and prosperity for this group. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 63/227 to convene the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs in the year 2011. The conference will be preceded by a wide range of preparatory activities at the country, regional and global levels. National preparations for African LDCs and African regional review would be an important part of the process leading to the Conference. The UN-OHRLLS, in cooperation and coordination with other parts of the UN system and other relevant international organizations, will provide necessary assistance to the African LDCs in their effective involvement in the preparatory process in order to place their agenda at the forefront of the Conference.

NEPAD and the Almaty Programme of Action are also particularly interconnected in so far as the Almaty priorities on infrastructure development and maintenance, cooperation

in transit transport and border crossing policy and trade facilitation are supportive of the goals of the NEPAD's Medium-Long Term Strategic Framework.

In the context of the preparatory process for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme, in June 2008 the Office organized a three-day African regional review meeting in Addis Ababa at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa. The meeting adopted the outcome document (E/ECA/ALMATY/08), which contains specific action-oriented measures with the objective, inter alia, to ensure uniform and effective implementation of regional and sub-regional instruments by member countries, reduce rent-seeking behaviour and port and border delays that contribute significantly to transit costs, enhance the participation of relevant national and regional private sector associations in facilitation efforts, strengthen the capacity of governments to design and implement public-private partnership agreements in general and in particular create appropriate oversight mechanisms to monitor the implementation of railway and other concessions, and improve the layout of infrastructure at borders and introduce shared facilities.

The African regional review outcome document is an integral part of the Almaty midterm review and contributed crucial concrete inputs to its final outcome document (Declaration of the General Assembly A/RES/63/2). The Office continues to make efforts to implement these agreed measures aimed at addressing special needs of African landlocked countries and their transit neighbours in close cooperation and coordination with the other UN system organizations, other relevant international institutions, particularly with the ECA and the African RECs. The Matrix for the follow-up activities for the accelerated implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action contains a number of specific actions, such as reduction of customs convoy, roadblocks, development of legal framework, aimed at increasing trade efficiency in African landlocked and transit developing countries. The Matrix for follow-up activities is expected to be adopted at the forthcoming fifth inter-agency meeting on Almaty Programme, convened by the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, where more than 20 major international organizations and UN agencies will participate.

With the onset of the global economic and financial crises, the Office is making efforts to draw the attention of the international community on the negative impact of the global financial crisis on the development prospects of the vulnerable countries, particularly those in Africa, and is planning a series of events and a specific analytical study to assess the changing global environment as it affects the LDCs and spell out key transmission channels (in terms of trade, FDI, remittances, ODA, debt servicing), including an analysis of the interrelationship with trends in energy prices, food security and climate change.

The Office has also planned activities aimed at strengthening the voice of SIDS, including those in Africa, in the global policy dialogue on climate change.