

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

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: 2003-2004

Areas of support for NEPAD

- Advocacy and mobilization of support for LDCs (34 out of 50 are in Africa), Landlocked Developing Countries (15 out of 31 are in Africa) and Small Island Developing States (6 out of 34 are in Africa);
- LLDCs programme also includes transit developing countries (18 in Africa); and
- The Programme of Action for these three groups cover all the above-mentioned areas.

Primary focus of activity

- Facilitating and promoting South-South cooperation;
- Promoting coordination and coherence in support of NEPAD priorities;
- Supporting simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures as a means of enhancing support for NEPAD;
- Supporting and strengthening sub-regional consultation mechanisms as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination for NEPAD at the regional level;
- Developing and implementing joint programmes in support of NEPAD;
- Supporting the NEPAD Secretariat and African countries in developing NEPAD projects and programmes;
- Supporting and strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations in their ability and capacity to support conflict

prevention, management as well as peace building programmes.

OHRLLS has been most active in advocacy and mobilisation of international support in order to put high in the global agenda the concerns of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. OHRLLS has also been striving to ensure full participation of the LDCs in ECOSOC sessions. Furthermore, considering the importance of trade for the development of LDCs (and its prominent role in the Brussels Programme of Action in March 2004), OHRLLS and the LDCs Coordination Bureau in New York jointly organised a seminar on *“The Integrated Framework (IF) on Trade-Related Technical Assistance to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).”* It was done in partnership with UNDP. The seminar brought together representatives from LDCs, donor delegates based in New York, and Secretariat staff.

In addition, strong advocacy regarding cotton subsidy and other agricultural subsidies as well as debt cancellation for African countries have been carried out.

Moreover, the Almaty Programme of Action, which was adopted at the International Ministerial Conference in August 2003 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution A/Res/58/201, addresses the special needs of LLDCs within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for landlocked and transit

developing countries. The Almaty Programme facilitates their efforts to integrate the international trading system through establishing efficient transit transport systems that would reduce trade transaction cost. The Almaty Programme of Action is particularly important for Africa where the highest transport costs prevail. Some central and Western African LLDCs spend almost 40 per cent of their export earning for transport services.

The Almaty Programme of Action identified 5 priorities: (i) fundamental transit policy issues, (ii) infrastructure development and maintenance, (iii) international trade and trade facilitation, (iv) international support measures, and (v) implementation and review. The ROADMAP for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was endorsed at the Inter-Agency meeting on 4 February 2004, includes, among other things, identification of missing links in regional infrastructure network as well as the solicitation of funds to complete these missing links and to undertake trade facilitation measures, including the improvement of custom procedures.

In its advocacy effort, OHRLLS envisages jointly holding a meeting with the Government of Senegal in early 2005 on *“Addressing the Concerns of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in the Infrastructure Component of NEPAD.”*

OHRLLS’s financial commitment to NEPAD

OHRLLS is not a funding nor a programme support office. In view of its mandate, its total budgetary resources go to its work for these countries.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

- Need for increased coordination and information flow

As most member countries of NEPAD are LDCs and LLDCs, this would require closer cooperation between the NEPAD Secretariat and OHRLLS, in particular in terms of information sharing, for instance, on the outcomes of the various meetings held for improving the implementation of NEPAD.

- Need also for increased donor support.