



## *Newsletter No. 2*

### **Background**

The Development Account Newsletter provides a quick summary of the capacity building activities currently undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) Secretariat. The CDP's Development Account project focusses on graduation strategies for LDCs in Asia/Pacific and Africa. It aims at improving LDCs' ability to take greater advantage of existing support measures by facilitating access to information on these measures and to build capacity in graduating countries in preparing strategies for a smooth transition.

Anticipated outputs include a web-based information portal on the international support measures, a toolkit offering an analytical review of potential and effective benefits associated with LDC status, country case-studies on support used and constraints faced, and the design of a country-specific macro-economic model framework for assessing the potential implications of the phasing out of LDC-specific support due to graduation. Results of the project will also serve as an input into the debate leading to the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs to be held in Turkey, in May 2011.

The project counts on the collaboration from ECA, ESCAP, ITC, OECD/DAC, OHRLLS, UNDP, UNCTAD and the WTO Secretariat. Activities include the design and implementation of a set of detailed surveys on the support measures offered by the international donor community, trading partners, and the WTO as well as surveys of LDCs' awareness and use of these measures. These measures are spread over a wide range of sources and are often not easy to locate. The measures fall into three main areas: international trade, official development assistance, and other forms of assistance.

### **News**

In February 2011, the CDP Secretariat organized a Briefing for the trading partners of LDCs, at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva. Delegates were briefed on the status of the overall project implementation and on the nature of the survey addressed to their Governments. Trading partners have been requested to fill out the survey and submit their responses by the middle of March 2011.

#### Survey implementation status

Five surveys on the availability of international support measures for LDCs are currently being implemented:

- 22 LDC WTO Members have provided responses to the survey on LDC specific measures in the WTO provisions and preferential market access.
- All LDCs have been requested to fill out a survey on ODA related international support measures.
- 17 development partners have provided responses to the survey on ODA.
- 12 trading partners have been requested to submit a response to a survey on trade-related international support measures.

- As of 1 March 2011, 17 International Organisations submitted their response to the survey on multilateral support measures.

### Activities

The Survey responses, analyses of the responses focussing on the utilization of international support measures by LDCs and all other project outputs will be made available on the internet [LDC Information Portal](#) being developed under the project. The Portal will be launched during a Special Event on Wednesday 11 May (1 - 3 p.m.), organised by the CDP Secretariat at the Fourth Conference on LDCs in Istanbul, Turkey (9-13 May, 2011).

Initial results from the responses by LDCs on special and differential treatment provisions contained in the Uruguay Round agreements were discussed in the [presentation](#) by the CDP Secretariat at the meeting on "[Tackling the vulnerability of LDCs as a priority for the Programme of Action of the Istanbul Conference](#)", organized by the Governments of Nepal and France and [Fondation pour les Etudes et Recherches sur le Développement International \(FERDI\)](#) at UN Headquarters in New York on 9 March 2011.

On 10 March information on [the responses from multilateral development partners](#) were presented by the CDP Secretariat during a meeting on graduation of least developed countries and smooth transition, organized by the Permanent Mission of Maldives in collaboration with OHRLLS. A [note](#) containing the preliminary results of the survey responses from multilateral development partners was distributed at the meeting.

For further information, please visit our website at [www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc\\_project.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc_project.shtml).

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