

LDC-IV Special Event on “Mutual Accountability for LDC: A framework for aid quality and beyond”

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 12 May 2011 6:15 pm-8 pm

VENUE: Çamlica Hall, Istanbul Congress Centre.

Organizers: UN-DESA, OECD, UNDP

Brief description of the event (theme, objectives/purpose, format):

The Fourth Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul (LDC-IV) provides a unique opportunity to review how the development concerns of Least Developed Countries and MDG challenges can be better met by increasing aid, improving its quality and strengthening mutual accountability frameworks for development results. This special event aims to reflect on how mutual accountability between LDCs and their donors on aid can contribute to the implementation of international commitments, including those contained in the draft Istanbul Programme of Action. It will build on the findings of a High-level Symposium to be held in Mali the week before on “Gearing development cooperation towards the MDGs: effectiveness and results”. The Special event will (i) discuss aid quality and effectiveness from the perspective of LDCs; and (ii) explore whether the frameworks aimed at ensuring mutual accountability between LDCs and their donors on aid commitments fully reflect the concerns and needs of LDCs.

The following questions will be discussed:

- How do the structural factors characterizing LDCs influence the quality of aid provided to these countries?
- Building on the Brussels Programme of Action and the Istanbul conference, which aspects of aid quality are the most important ones for LDCs?
- How can systems ensuring mutual accountability between LDCs and their donors at country level be improved so that they better address the concerns of LDCs on aid quantity and aid quality? How can mutual accountability mechanisms support greater development results? What are good practices in this regard?
- What should be the key elements and targets of a framework for mutual accountability on aid for LDCs?
- How could such a framework be used to contribute to the follow-up processes to Istanbul?

List of speakers/lead discussants, moderator and/or chair

The panel discussion will be co-chaired by Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development (UNDESA) and Mr. Jon Lomøy, Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD, and moderated by H.E. Mr. Lazarous Kapambwe, President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations. It is expected to feature short statements by H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Mr. Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Mali; Ms. Enna Park, Director General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea and Mr. Tony Tujan, jr., Co-chair of the Better Aid Coordination Group¹.

Synopsis of the expected outcome:

The outcome of the special event will be a Chairpersons' summary highlighting issues of critical concern for LDCs regarding the quality of aid and ways to review and promote progress through closer dialogue and mutual accountability with donors. The summary will inform preparations for the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in November 2011 and the next UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) in June/July 2012.

A more detailed background note and a study on trends in aid in LDCs will provide suggestions on how mutual accountability for LDCs can be improved, building on existing structures. (see www.un.org/ecosoc/dcf for details).

For further information, please contact:

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¹ Confirmations to be received

