

Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 - 2010

Information Note on Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non- Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 22 June 2006

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations (NGO), civil society organizations (CS) and the private sector (PS) will be held on 22 June 2006, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/228.¹
2. The Task Force of the President of the General Assembly for the Hearings has prepared this “Information Note” for the use of Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CS) and the private sector (PS). It contains information on the theme, format and modalities for the Hearings and procedures for nominating participants.
3. The objective of the one-day Hearings is to create space where NGO, CS and PS can interact with Member States and offer input to the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 – 2010. The review process will assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints to the further implementation of the Programme of Action.
4. In the interest of openness and inclusiveness, representatives of NGO/CS/PS may, upon accreditation, be able to participate in the Hearings as observing participants. (*See paragraph 22 to 23 for details*). Accreditation to attend as observing participants will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with due consideration to regional and gender balance.
5. Timeline:

Tuesday 18 April: Notification sent out to NGO/CS/PS groups and networks inviting nominations for inclusion among the 100 active participants in the Hearings or to register as observing participants.

Friday, 28 April: Deadline for receipt of nominations to be active participants.

¹ For the text of the resolution, see document A/RES/60/228 (or A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1)

Friday, 07 May: Accepted participants will be informed of their status by this date.

Friday, 12 May: Deadline for registration to attend as observing participant

II. FORMAT

6. The one-day informal interactive Hearings will be held under the theme “Forging partnership with civil society and the private sector for poverty reduction in LDCs.” There will be an opening session, two interactive sessions and a closing session.

Provisional programme of the Hearings (see also the Annex)

7. The opening session of the of Hearings shall consist of a statement of the President of the General Assembly and remarks by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island States and a keynote speaker representing NGOs, civil society and the private sector.

8. The opening will be followed by two sequential sessions. Each session will consist of presentations by invited participants from non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and private sector organizations and an exchange of views with Members states on the following tentative sub-themes:

- a) Harnessing partnerships for sustainable development in the Least Developed Countries.
- b) Unleashing entrepreneurship to end poverty in the Least Developed Countries.

9. The closing session will include a summary of the main issues, suggestions and proposals arising from the interactive sessions and closing remarks of the President of the General Assembly.

Outcome of the Hearings

10. A summary of the Hearings reflecting the views and recommendations of NGO/CS/PS actors shall be prepared for the consideration of Member States during the High-level Meeting on the midterm review of the Programme of Action.

Organization of the two interactive sessions

11. The sessions will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly or his representative, who will ensure lively interactive discussions between Member States and NGO/CS/PS participants. The chairperson will provide a brief summary of the main proposals, emphasizing linkages and cross-cutting issues, arising from the sessions.

12. Each session will consist of short presentations by 2 speakers from NGOs, 1 speaker from other civil society organisations, 2 speakers from the Private Sector, and brief responses by 2 discussants from Member States. The remaining time for each session will consist of an interactive dialogue between Member States and active

participants with a view to having NGO/CS/PS articulate suggestions and proposals for consideration by Member States.

13. Presentations by speakers should not exceed 5 minutes each. Interventions by other participants should be interactive and short, not exceeding 2 minutes.

14. At each of the two sessions, a number of NGO/CS/PS active participants will be afforded the opportunity to take part in the interactive dialogue.

III. NOMINATION OF SPEAKERS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS / REGISTRATION OF OBSERVING PARTICIPANTS (*see paragraph 5 for deadlines*)

15. NGO/CS/PS organizations shall use the attached “Nomination Form for Speakers and Active Participants” to nominate speakers and active participants.

Selection criteria for speakers and active participants

16. The selection of active participants (including speakers) for the Hearings will be based on the following criteria:

- Broad substantive expertise and/or experience in one or both sub-themes and cross-cutting themes;
- Representation of organizations/network(s) with a broad constituency, of a public interest nature, and operating at the local, national or international level;
- Gender, geographic and sectoral balance, with attention paid to racial, ethnic, intergenerational and religious diversity;
- Significant representation from the Least Developed Countries.

Procedure for nominating speakers and active participants

17. Organizations/networks are required to complete the attached “Nomination Form for Speakers and Active Participants” if they wish to nominate representatives to be invited by the President of the General Assembly as active participants in the Hearings.

Return nomination form by email to: ohrlls-unhq@un.org or by fax to: +1-212-963-0419. The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, 28 April 2006.

19. Applicants will be advised by Friday, 07 May 2006 if they are to receive an invitation from the President of the General Assembly.

20. Please ensure that nominees are aware of the U.S. visa application process and timetable. If a visa is necessary, it is best to apply for it at least two months before the intended date of arrival in the U.S.

21. While it is not guaranteed, funding may be available for speakers and active participants from the Least Developed Countries. Priority of funding will be given to the speakers, subject to availability of funds.

Registration of observing participants

22. NGO representatives with ECOSOC consultative status or DPI affiliation will be able to participate in the Hearings as observing participants by virtue of that status.

23. NGO/CS/PS representatives without ECOSOC consultative status or DPI affiliation may seek accreditation to attend the Hearings as observing participants by completing the attached “Application Form for Observing participants”. Alternatively, such representatives may seek accreditation for the Hearings through members in their network who have ECOSOC consultative status or DPI affiliation.

IV. SIDE EVENTS

- Space will be provided for a limited number of NGO/CS/PS side events, such as NGO Caucuses. Please note that such space is limited. More information will be provided shortly.
- Tables will be provided for groups to display their materials.

NGO/CS/PS Members of the Task Force

Mr. Arjun Karki - LDC Watch

Mr. Roberto Bissio - Social Watch

Ms. Thida Khus - SILAKA, Cambodia

Ms. Elizabeth Eilor - Africal Women Economic Policy Network (AWEAPON)

Mr. Simon Stocker – Eurostep

Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury – GCAP/CAMPE, Bangladesh

Mr. Demba Moussa Dembele - Africa Forum on Alternatives

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