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Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States



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PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE MIDTERM COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010

Summary of the fourth Inter-Agency Consultations

26 April 2006

(Conference Room 6, UNHQ, New York)

The High Representative opened the consultations and mentioned the following:

- The LDC Chairman would join the meeting later and provide information on the upcoming LDC Ministerial meeting in Cotonou (5-8 June 2006)
- The sectoral reports of the agencies would be made available for the LDC Ministerial meeting in Cotonou, the UN Experts' Group meeting (5-7 September 2006) in New York and at the High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in September. 20 UN governing bodies had mainstreamed the Brussels Programme of Action, and the sectoral reports should relate to their respective mandates.
- Agencies had also proposed to hold special events in connection with the midterm review, and a calendar containing these had been circulated.
- On organizational issues for the High-level meeting as well as its preparatory phase, the Note by the Secretary-General, which had been re-issued with an asterisk for technical reasons, was available for the information of the agencies as A/60/738*.
- The dates for the High-level Meeting which had been fixed earlier (General Assembly resolution 60/228) for 19 and 20 September 2006 would have to be changed as 19 September was the opening day of the 61st session of the General Assembly. New dates, possibly on 17 and 18 September, were under discussions between the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the regional groups. Any new dates selected would require the approval of the General Assembly.
- On 22 June 2006, the informal interactive hearings of civil society, NGOs and the private sector would be held by the President of the General Assembly in New York. The Secretary-General was also expected to participate. There were however concerns about the availability of resources for bringing participants from the LDCs to these hearings. Mr. Chowdhury had addressed letters to the UN Funds and Programmes to assist in this regard. Upon the request of the President of the General Assembly, there was a possibility of a letter also being addressed to them by the Secretary-General.



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Mr. Om Pradhan (UN-OHRLLS) brought the calendar of the special events being organized to the attention of the agencies, and emphasized the need to firm up the dates, timings and conference rooms by the agencies, including finalization and invitations to panellists and participants. Time was now running out and a lot of preparations had still to be undertaken.

The representative of UNEP mentioned that UNEP had mainstreamed the Brussels Programme. A comprehensive input relating to the Programme and two additional inputs had been submitted. Regarding the paragraphs for the Secretary-General's report, he wanted to know if this input could be submitted at a later date as the Secretary-General's report may only be finalized after the Cotonou ministerial meeting.

Mr. Chowdhury responded by explaining that the sectoral reports were expected to present the entire range of activities by the agency concerned. Taking into account the need to submit the draft report to conference services and to the EOSG, the report would have to be completed by the end of June 2006 after taking into account the Cotonou outcome. A few paragraphs from the agencies on what they wanted to go into the Secretary-General's report would be helpful. He also urged agencies to join up with each other on special events where the subject matter or themes permitted.

The UNESCO representative said that she had received a request from UN-OHRLLS to do a special event on education. She had sent the request to her headquarters. In the meantime she wanted to ensure a slot for the event in the calendar.

Mr. Chowdhury mentioned that the UNICEF could also collaborate with UNESCO on the education event. The LDCs felt strongly about education.

The UNIFEM representative said that they are planning to have a panel discussion on feminised poverty and its implications to development in LDCs, but could co-sponsor the event with other agencies who might be interested. UNIFEM would welcome suggestions in this regard. Secondly, the representative said that there should be a strategy to ensure that the outcomes of panels and events should have an impact on the High-level Meeting.

The representative of the Regional Commissions said that commission sessions had taken up the issue of the Brussels Programme. The ECLAC had considered Haiti's case and adopted a resolution. The ESCAP had submitted its report to the meeting of the commission at its 62nd session and resolutions had been adopted. On the contents in the calendar, he said that he would revert back to the regional commissions and then come back to UN-OHRLLS.

Mr. Chowdhury assured the UNIFEM representative that the UN-OHRLLS would present the outcome of the special events to the High-level Meeting and include it in the records of



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the Meeting. He also mentioned that so far four regional commissions had organized meetings relating to the Brussels Programme, that is, the ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, with ESCWA's coming up next month.

The UNCTAD representative confirmed the two special events on 19 and 20 September 2006. She also said that UNCTAD was holding another event in Geneva on 29 and 30 May 2006 relating to LDCs and their development partners. Details of this meeting would be provided shortly.

The OSAA representative said that their event was already confirmed. In preparation they planned an expert group meeting in Egypt on 17-19 June 2006 on natural resources and conflict in Africa which would involve all stakeholders including government, the donor community, international and regional organizations, civil society, private sector, etc. This meeting would consider the link between the exploitation of natural resources and small arms proliferation and the issue of governance in natural resource management. They hoped to get a set of recommendations to build upon and on which the scheduled special event would be based.

The UNCDF representative said that their sectoral report would be submitted shortly. He mentioned that they also had two publications which would be relevant. They would provide inputs for the Secretary-General's report as well as for the Cotonou Strategy.

The IOM representative said that they had already held an event on 8-9 February 2006 on remittances in Cotonou. This event should be reflected in the calendar. The report of the event was still under preparation but a short note would be provided.

The UN-HABITAT representative mentioned that their governing council had adopted a resolution relating to LDCs.

The UN DESA representative informed that the recommended date of the event in Geneva facilitated by DESA, under the leadership of UN-OHRLLS, was now the afternoon of 20 July 2006, following the annual LDC review in ECOSOC in the morning.

The FAO representative said that they had already submitted their sectoral report for the period 2001-2005.

The UNV representative said that they were taking part in the consultations for the first time. They were still to submit their sectoral report and the paragraphs for the Secretary-General's report. They also preferred to co-sponsor the UNIFEM special event.



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The WMO representative said that their organization had a special action programme for the LDCs to address disaster situations. They would also be organizing a special event relating to climate change and drought and would provide the necessary information. Mr. Chowdhury added that the ISDR was also joining hands with WMO.

Mr. Chowdhury then welcomed the Chairman of the LDC group of countries, Mr. Edouard Aho-Glele, and said that a chart outlining the 30 goals relating to the Brussels Programme would be circulated at a later date with information on which UN agency or agencies would take the lead role for each of the goals.

Mr. Aho-Glele commended the agencies for taking interest in the issues relating to the LDCs. In respect of the preparations and organization for the midterm review, one principle had to be clearly borne in mind – that of ownership of the process. It should be understood that the exercise was being led by the LDCs with the support of the UN-OHRLLS taking into account the views and observations of all the agencies of the UN system.

He had taken the initiative to send the draft Cotonou Strategy to most agencies represented at the meeting so as to seek their comments and to integrate them into the document, but some may have been inadvertently left out. Agencies who had not received the draft and would like to have one should inform him.

He hoped that all agencies would participate at the Ministerial Meeting in Cotonou. His government intended to invite all leading agencies which had mandates within the framework of the Brussels Programme.

A chart outlining the 30 goals was being prepared with the support of the UN-OHRLLS. The intention was to identify which agency or agencies had the mandate for each of these goals in order to facilitate leadership for the goal. If an agency wanted to shift to another sector or goal, they should indicate their preference. Such a chart or document would finally be adopted at the September High-level meeting.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the agencies who had expressed their support for the midterm review and the Brussels Programme and for the upcoming Cotonou Ministerial Meeting.

Mr. Chowdhury reiterated that the agencies were showing keen interest in the process leading towards the High-level Meeting. He thanked the Chairman and all the agency representatives for their participation and concluded the meeting.
