



United Nations

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



UN-OHRLS

**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 third Inter-Agency Consultations

17 January 2006

(Conference Room 6, UNHQ, New York)

The High Representative Anwarul K. Chowdhury opened the consultations, and recalled the comments made by the Chairman of the LDCs at the previous second Inter-Agency Consultations held on 28 September 2005 on the expectations that the LDCs had from the agencies including the Bretton Woods institutions. He then referred to General Assembly resolution A/Res/60/228 of 23 December 2005 wherein the pertinent decisions taken by the Assembly relating to the midterm review were highlighted by him.

The nomenclature of the meeting was 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.” The President of the General Assembly would chair the event which would take place at United Nations in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006. Prior to this, an experts meeting was tentatively scheduled for 4, 5 and 6 September 2006 at United Nations, New York. In addition, the President of the General Assembly had been requested to organize an “informal interactive hearings of NGOs, civil society and the private sector” in New York.

Mr. Chowdhury informed the meeting that till now 16 of the 50 LDC national reports had been received, and more were expected in the next few weeks despite the timeline being 15 January 2006. The UN Resident Coordinators concerned had been requested through a joint letter (signed by the High Representative and the UNDP Administrator) to assist LDCs to prepare their national reports. Towards pursuing the matter further, he had also met with 48 LDC representatives in New York before the start of the holidays in December 2005. The representative of one remaining LDC had not been available at the time in New York while the other did not have a mission (Kiribati).

Mr. Chowdhury said that his interest in the national report was because without these the regional and global reviews would not be very effective. These reports would be inputs for the regional meetings which would in turn lead to the global review. In addition, prior to the global review, an LDC ministerial meeting would take place in Benin where the LDCs would coordinate their positions. The inputs at this latter meeting would be the national reports, the synthesis of the national reports and the regional



United Nations

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



UN-OHRLS

reports. The synthesis reports for the 34 African LDCs and the 14 Asia Pacific LDCs would be separate. The High Representative then mentioned the sectoral appraisals called for from the agencies in the General Assembly resolution.

The following representatives of the agencies made interventions which are reflected below in brief:

The representative for the UN Regional Commissions reminded that an expert group meeting was being organized by ESCAP in Phnom Penh during 14-16 February 2006 to prepare the outcome document for the regional review meeting in Bangkok on 14-15 March 2006.

The FAO representative said that their sectoral report would be ready by February 2006. Field offices have been requested to send their inputs.

The IPU representative said that their main contribution was towards involving national parliaments in the preparation of the national reports. In addition they would undertake activities relating to building good governance.

The WMO representative commented that his organization had taken a number of actions to implement the BPOA, and that WMO had an LDC programme. WMO would be proposing concrete steps and would come up with a cross-cutting programme. WMO would submit its sectoral report within the timeline indicated as March 2006.

The UNIDO representative informed the meeting of initiatives within UNIDO pertaining to the LDCs, including the special events already undertaken during the WTO meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005. Its sectoral report on the BPOA for the period 2001-2005 would be ready by end March 2006. They would also be participating at the LDC ministerial meeting in Cotonou, Benin.

The representative of UNAIDS said that the agency will submit their sectoral report by March 2006.

The Executive Secretary of UNCDF said that their sectoral report would be ready by March 2006. They would also participate at the African and Asia-Pacific regional meetings. In addition, they would be bringing out three publications relating to their two practice areas. Resource mobilization would be on the basis of a holistic integrated approach, as this was an issue that they consistently confronted. UNCDF will organize a conference and workshop in Africa, tentatively on 5-6 June 2006.

The representative of UNCTAD reiterated the proposals that had been made earlier. They wanted an extension of time for the submission of their sectoral report.

The representative of the ISDR recalled the Hyogo Framework and its relevance to Africa and the LDCs. They were also keen to make inputs to the midterm review, but the actual nature of involvement would be given by their headquarters. They would be organizing several events during the course of 2006 to highlight disaster reduction, including in the LDCs.



United Nations

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



UN-OHRLLS

The representative of the UNDG said that they had requested the UN Resident Coordinators to report on the assistance that they had provided to the LDCs to prepare their national reports. As soon as this report was available it would be submitted.

The representative of OSAA said that the midterm review was of great relevance to their activities, especially in the area of good governance within the framework of NEPAD. However, the involvement of OSAA would have to be referred back to the acting head of agency.

The representative of IFAD said that on the issue of the special events, consultations were on-going and they would communicate the details as soon as they were ready.

The representative of UN HABITAT said that their governing council had adopted a resolution on LDCs. Their sectoral report would be submitted on time.

Mr. Chowdhury took the floor to respond to the questions that had been raised by several speakers.

1. On sectoral reports he clarified that the agencies would be acting as mandated by General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/228 OP 11. Hence, the sectoral reports would be self-standing reports of the organizations. He advised that these be brought out as early as possible towards bolstering the preparations. They would be part and parcel of the documentation of the Midterm Review.

2. Inputs for Secretary-General's Report: He clarified that the Secretary-General's annual report to ECOSOC was separate from the Secretary-General's report to the Midterm Review which would be for the 5-year period from 2001-2005. For the Secretary-General's annual report the agencies and organizations could submit two to three paged inputs. The inputs of the agencies for the Secretary-General's comprehensive report should also come from them. It was further possible to present sectoral reports during special events that are organized by the agencies.

3. Format of the plenary meetings of the High-level meeting: Mr. Chowdhury said that there would be roundtable meetings and panel discussions which would give opportunities for the participation of agencies. He would be consulting the President of the General Assembly and the DGACM in this regard.

4. NEPAD: Mr. Chowdhury clarified that the BPOA was closely connected to NEPAD as 34 LDCs were in Africa. NEPAD and the BPOA had to be linked and considered mutually supportive for purposes of implementation.



United Nations

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



UN-OHRLLS

5. Role of agencies at the Expert Group meeting in New York: This should actually be considered a senior officials meeting – though it was up to the member states to appoint their representatives as the experts. Even the official status of LDC National Focal Points - who are expected to attend - varied from country to country. He expected the agencies and organizations to be involved at this Expert Group meeting but the framework and opportunity available would have to be further looked into. The task of the Expert Group meeting was mainly to work on the outcome document for the global review, and it was desirable for the agencies to be present.

Finally, UN DESA representative inquired about the next steps for the Inter-Agency Consultations. Mr. Chowdhury said that while the agencies and organizations would be in constant touch with the UN-OHRLLS, the next consultations could take place in six weeks to two months time.

In conclusion, Mr. Chowdhury thanked the participants for their attendance and contributions.
