

Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

(background paper)

Timing. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/59/244 the comprehensive review of Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (hereafter referred to as “Brussels Programme” or “Programme”) will be held in **2006** at the 61st session of the General Assembly while the modalities of the review (exact dates and duration, structure, format, participation, preparatory process, possible outcomes, etc.) will be discussed in **2005** at the 60th session of the General Assembly.

Contents of the review. In accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 57/270 B “Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields” adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2003, the comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme will focus on **implementation**. It will

- assess progress in the implementation of the Programme;
- provide the occasion to reaffirm agreed goals and the objective of the Programme;
- identify existing obstacles and constraints, as well as measures to overcome them and to further the implementation of the Programme;
- identify best practices and lessons learned;
- identify new challenges and emerging issues;
- provide with the opportunity to renew the commitment of the LDCs and their development partners to the Programme.

Preparatory process. To ensure the effective comprehensive review and its successful outcome the preparatory process will include national, sub/regional reviews and sectoral reviews by UN system and multilateral organizations by their governing bodies, particularly those that adopted decisions on mainstreaming the Programme in their work programmes. Two separate dialogues with civil society and the private sector will also become part of the preparatory process at the global level.

Inputs to the review. The Secretary-General’s report, covering the period 2001-2006 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the LDCs will serve as the major input for the comprehensive review. Outcomes of the national, sub/regional and sectoral reviews, as well as of preparatory events at the global level will provide additional inputs to the 2006 comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme by the General Assembly.

Role of the LDCs: undertaking national reviews in an open, transparent and participatory manner and providing inputs to the 2006 comprehensive review at the regional and global levels.

Role of the UN-OHRLLS. The UN-OHRLLS, in accordance with its mandate, will take a lead role in the coordination of preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme.

Role of UN RCs . Role of the RCs is indispensable in assisting the LDCs in carrying out their national reviews and preparing their inputs to the 2006 comprehensive review at the regional and global levels.

Role of UN Regional Commissions. UN Regional Commissions are encouraged to facilitate regional reviews of the implementation of the Brussels Programme by the LDCs and provide inputs to the 2006 comprehensive review at the global level.

Role of UN system organizations. UN system organizations are encouraged to undertake sectoral reviews of the implementation of the Brussels Programme by their governing bodies and provide inputs to the 2006 comprehensive review at the global level.