



Newsletter No. 1

News

The Monthly Development Account Newsletter gives interested readers a quick summary of the capacity building activities currently undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) Secretariat. The CDP's Development Account project focusses on graduation strategies for LDCs in Asia/Pacific and Africa. It aims at improving LDCs' ability to take greater advantage of existing support measures by facilitating access to information on these measures and to build capacity in graduating countries in preparing strategies for a smooth transition.

The outputs of the project include a web-based information portal on the international support measures, a toolkit offering an analytical review of potential and effective benefits associated with LDC status, country case-studies on support used and constraints faced, and the design of a country-specific macroeconomic model framework for assessing the potential implications of the phasing out of LDC-specific support resulting from graduation. Results of the project will also serve as an input into the debate leading to the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs to be held in Turkey, in May 2011.

The project counts on the collaboration from ECA, ESCAP, ITC, OECD/DAC, OHRLLS, UNDP, UNCTAD and the WTO Secretariat.

Activities include the design and implementation of a set of detailed surveys on the support measures offered by the international donor community, trading partners, and the WTO as well as surveys of LDCs' awareness and use of these measures. These measures are spread over a wide range of sources and are often not easy to locate. The measures fall into three main areas: international trade, official development assistance, and other forms of assistance.

In February 2010, the CDP Secretariat in collaboration with the WTO Secretariat, organized an expert group meeting at the WTO in Geneva to discuss the content of the trade-related surveys addressed to LDCs and their trading partners. Representatives of various trading partners, LDCs and multilateral organizations participated and discussed survey contents, modality of implementation as well as pilot responses from a number of LDCs. Subsequently, the WTO LDC Group was briefed on the outcome of the meeting. From June to September 2010, 2 training and 2 peer review workshops were organized at UN headquarters in Geneva for the LDC WTO Members participating in the project. To facilitate responding to the trade-related international support measures surveys, the WTO Secretariat collaborated in preparing a background Information Manual and, together with ITC and UNCTAD, provided substantive support at the workshops.

Survey implementation status

Five surveys on the availability of international support measures for LDCs are currently being implemented:

- 22 LDC WTO Members have provided responses to the survey on LDC specific measures in the WTO provisions and preferential market access. In early December, LDCs acceding to the WTO were also approached to fill out the survey.
- 13 development partners have provided responses to the survey on ODA. Other development partners are invited to submit their response by end January 2011.
- In November 2010, all relevant International Organisations received the survey on multilateral support and were requested to reply by end December 2010.
- LDCs' main trading partners will be approached in the coming weeks with a survey on trade-related support measures for LDCs.
- On 7 December 2010 the CDP Secretariat organized a meeting for the LDC group based in New York to brief delegates on the survey addressed to their Governments on international support measures related to Official Development Assistance. The Survey has already been sent out and responses are expected by 10 January 2011

Survey responses and all other project outputs will be made available on the internet [LDC Information Portal](#) being developed under the project.

In addition to the surveys, the project also finalized a compilation of information on existing Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) provisions for LDCs in the WTO Agreements and Decisions. This project output will be made available as a searchable database in the LDC Information Portal allowing users to easily access information about existing SDT provisions.

The 2010 project activities also included the design and implementation of case studies on countries' experiences on support used and constraints faced and on preparing or planning to prepare for a smooth transition. The case studies are conducted by local experts. The study on Nepal, focusing on WTO accession, is about to be finalized, while studies on Bangladesh, Mali and Samoa are ongoing. Three additional studies are planned for 2012.

For further information, please visit our website at www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc_project.shtml.

CDP Newsletter Subscription Information:

To *Subscribe*: Click the subscribe link below:

[Subscribe](#)

To *Unsubscribe*: Click the Unsubscribe link below to send a blank email to the address specified. You will receive a confirmation email shortly after unsubscribing.

[Unsubscribe](#)

Contact Us: Click the link below to contact us using email:

[Contact us via email](#)