



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 March 2011

Excellency,

On 20 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/65/171 entitled "Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

In this resolution, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to organize "a day of informal interactive hearings with civil society actors". The General Assembly also invited the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Conference to preside jointly over the informal interactive hearings and requested the President of the General Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as a General Assembly document prior to the Conference.

In my letter of 3 March 2011, I announced that the informal interactive civil society hearings will take place on 1 April 2011 and I attached a draft programme of the hearings for your consideration.

Following consultations with Member States and civil society, and with the support of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the civil society steering committee for the Fourth LDC Conference, I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note and the final programme for the civil society hearings.

I encourage all Member States to fully participate in the hearings and make statements.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deiss".

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Proposed arrangements for the informal interactive civil society hearings of the General Assembly in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UN LDC IV), to be convened on 1 April 2011.

Information Note

I. Introduction

The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/171 of 20 December 2010, decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, to, among others things, undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, and to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners.

In its resolution, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to organize, before the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, a day of informal interactive hearings with civil society actors, in consultation with Member States, in particular the least developed countries, the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the civil society steering committee and the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

By the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Conference to jointly preside over the informal interactive hearings with civil society actors.

II. Information for participation

A. Date and venue

The informal interactive hearings will be held on **Friday 1 April 2011 in the ECOSOC Chamber** at United Nations Headquarters.

B. Participation in the Informal Interactive Hearings

Selection and Seating

The list of speakers and invited participants was determined by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, the civil society steering committee, the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and Member States. Every attempt was made to ensure the list of speakers and invited participants was balanced in terms of geographic representation, gender and the different sectors involved in meeting the challenges faced by the LDCs.

To allow for an informal interactive exchange and recognizing the capacity limitation of meeting rooms due to the capital master plan, Member States, invited participants, and some representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC will be allocated half of the seats of the ECOSOC Chamber and the other half will be allocated to other representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, observers from other civil society organizations and the private sector. Member States will be requested to collect their country name plate from the Secretariat upon arriving in the ECOSOC Chamber. This arrangement applies specifically to these informal interactive hearings and will not create a precedent for other meetings.

Schedule and Speakers

The opening of the hearings will be held on Friday 1 April 2011 at 10 a.m. The Acting President of the General Assembly will deliver an opening statement. This will be followed by a short statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (USG Diarra); the Chair of the Preparatory Committee; the Chair of the Bureau of LDCs; the host of the LDC IV Conference; and the Chair of the Civil Society Steering Committee for UN LDC IV.

Following the opening of the hearings, three sequential informal interactive panel sessions will be held, followed by a short closing session with a statement from the Acting President of the General Assembly (see Annex 1). The themes for the three panel sessions will be:

- *Session One - Harnessing Productive Resources for Sustainable Development*
- *Session Two - Enhancing Productive Capacity and Resilience against Global Crises*
- *Session Three - Promoting Good Governance and Effective Monitoring Mechanisms for Development*

The three panel sessions of the hearings will be featuring statements from speakers and respondents from civil society organizations. The Acting President of the General Assembly and USG Diarra will moderate the three panel sessions (see Annex 2).

To provide for an informal interactive exchange, the Acting President of the General Assembly and USG Diarra will call on Member States, civil society and the private sector to intervene in the order in which they ask for the floor, on the understanding that the exchange will balance the participation of those present.

The Acting President of the General Assembly will deliver a closing remark, briefly summing up the meeting.

C. Outcome of the informal Interactive Hearings

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/171 of 20 December 2010, the hearings will form part of the preparatory process for the Conference. To this end, the President of the

General Assembly will prepare a summary of the hearings, to be issued as a General Assembly document prior to the Conference.

D. Media Arrangements

The hearings, including the informal interactive panel sessions, will be open to the media and will be broadcast in-house by United Nations Television, including to the media working area. A programme of media briefings and press conferences will be arranged. Media advisories will be distributed on-site and through United Nations Information Centres/services, and will be made available electronically on the web site for the hearings, at www.un-ngls.org/ldc4.

G. List of invited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector

The list of participants is posted on www.un-ngls.org/ldc4.

**Programme for the Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearings
In Preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed
Countries
(UN LDC IV)**

1 April 2011, New York

10h00 – 11h00 – Opening of the Hearings

Opening Remarks

- Acting President of the General Assembly
- Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen, Finland, Chair of Preparatory Committee
- Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, Nepal, Chair of the Bureau of LDCs
- Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, Turkey, host of the LDC IV Conference
- Dr. Arjun Karki, LDC Watch and Chair, Civil Society Steering Committee for UN LDC IV

11h00 – 13h00 – Session on “Harnessing Productive Resources for Sustainable Development”

Panel presentations by selected representatives of civil society organizations

Interactive dialogue between Member States and selected members of civil society organizations

15h00 – 16h15 – Session on “Enhancing Productive Capacity and Resilience against Global Crises”

Panel presentations by selected representatives of civil society organizations

Interactive dialogue between Member States and selected members of civil society organizations

16h15 – 17h30 – Session on “Promoting Good Governance and Effective Monitoring Mechanisms for Development”

Panel presentations by selected representatives of civil society organizations

Interactive dialogue between Member States and selected members of civil society organizations

17h30 – 18h00 – Closing session

Presentation of the Global Civil Society report on UN LDC IV with recommendations

Closing statement by the Acting President of the UN General Assembly

Informal Interactive Civil Society Hearings of the General Assembly

In Preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UN LDC IV)

New York, April 1, 2011

Active Participants

Active Participants by Thematic Area

Session 1: Harnessing Productive Resources for Sustainable Development

Friday, 1 April; 11h00 – 13h00

Speakers:

- Ms. Beverly Keene, *Jubilee South*, (Argentina)
- Mr. Rudy de Meyer, *11.11.11*, (Belgium)
- Mr. Camille Chalmers, *PAPDA*, (Haiti)
- Ms. Odile Ndoumbe Faye, *AAWAORD*, (Senegal)
- Mr. Danny Singoma, *PRODDDES*, (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Respondent:

- Mr. Simon Stocker, *EuroSTEP*, (Belgium)

Session 2: Enhancing Productive Capacity and Resilience against Global Crises

Friday, 1 April; 15h00 – 16h15

Speakers:

- Ms. Njoki Njoroge Njehu, *Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center*, (Kenya)
- Ms. Roina Vavatau, *Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations*, (Samoa)
- Mr. Sarba Raj Khadka, *Rural Reconstruction Nepal*, (Nepal)
- Mr. Aldo Caliarì, *Center of Concern*, (USA)

Respondents:

- Ms. Huguette Bopke, *Social Watch*, (Benin)
- Ms. Azeb Girmai, *ENDA-Ethiopia*, (Ethiopia)

Session 3: Promoting Good Governance and Effective Monitoring Mechanisms for Development

Friday, 1 April; 16h15 – 17h30

Speakers:

- Ms. Thida Khus, *SILAKA*, (Cambodia)
- Mr. M. Ihsan Karaman, *Doctors Worldwide Turkey Coalition*, (Turkey)
- Mr. Roberto Bissio, *Social Watch*, (Uruguay)
- Ms. Jane Nalunga, *South and East African Trade, Information and Negotiation*, (Uganda)
- Mr. Amadou Taal, *The World View*, (Gambia)

Respondents:

- Mr. Seong-hoon Lee, *Korea Human Rights Foundation (KHRF)*, (Korea)
- Mr. Barry Coates, *Oxfam International*, (New Zealand)
- Mr. Eshetu B. Yimenu, *Poverty Action Network Ethiopia (PANE)*, (Ethiopia)