



LDC5
5TH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



High-level Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting on the Istanbul Programme of Action in preparation for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Geneva, 30 August to 2 September 2021

SAVE THE DATE

The Government of Bangladesh, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) are pleased to inform that the High-level Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting on the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) in preparation for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be held in Geneva from 30 August to 2 September 2021 in a hybrid format (both in person and virtually).

The Government of Bangladesh, UN-OHRLLS and UN-ESCAP would like to invite the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Asia-Pacific LDCs and Yemen, and the Friends of LDCs as well as the principals of the UN entities and other stakeholders to the meeting. The meeting is a part of the preparatory process for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs, which the United Nations decided to convene in Doha, Qatar, 23-27 January 2022, at the Heads of State and Government level, as per General Assembly Resolutions 73/242.

The High-level Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the IPOA by the Asia-Pacific LDCs and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them; and identify effective international and domestic policies as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them.

The meeting will also focus on an incentives-based graduation process to ensure sustainability of graduation. It may be noted that out of the current 12 Asia-Pacific LDCs, 9 have met the criteria for graduation for at least two consecutive times and one met the graduation criteria for the first time at the latest triennial review of the CDP in 2021, effectively placing 10 Asia-Pacific LDCs at some point in the graduation pipeline.

The Asia-Pacific Review is expected to come up with a comprehensive set of recommendations on how to make the graduation sustainable, irreversible and a steppingstone to achieve the 2030 Agenda in graduated countries. The meeting will also make concrete recommendations, from the regional perspectives, on a renewed partnership between the LDCs and their development partners, including governments, the private sector and civil society at all levels. The meeting will bring together Least Developed Countries Ministers and key stakeholders of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including development partners, UN system, relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as the broad spectrum of the private sector and civil society.

An official letter of invitation addressed to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs will be communicated in due course. Further information on the meeting, including a concept note, and information note for all participants regarding venue and other logistical issues, will also be communicated in due course.

Additional information will be available: www.un.org/ldc5/content/asia-pacific-review