



**LDC5**  
5TH UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

**Ambassadorial Retreat in Preparation for LDC5**

**21-22 October 2021**

**Tarrytown House Estate, Tarrytown, NY**

**Draft Programme**

**Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**15:45** Bus provided for all participants by UN-OHRLLS will depart from UN HQ

**17:30-18:30** Arrival and Check-In at Tarrytown House Estate

**18:30-21:00 Welcome Session**

Working Dinner (in person only)

**Speakers:**

- Mr E. Courtenay Rattray, High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and Secretary-General of LDC5
- H.E. Mr Perks Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi, Chair of the LDCs Group
- H.E. Ms Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Co-Chair of LDC5 PrepCom
- H.E. Mr Robert Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada, Co-Chair of LDC5 PrepCom
- Ms Usha Rao-Monari, UNDP Associate Administrator

**Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> [in person and virtual]**

**9:00 – 9:50 SESSION 1: Education for STEM Graduates**

**Moderator:** Mr Abdul Alim, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, OHRLLS

Enhanced skills and education are a precondition for reaching all the SDGs. While the IPoA has put a lot of focus on primary education recent developments, including related to the digital divide and future of work have shifted attention towards higher education and skills development. In this context an Online University has been proposed.

Such an online university with high academic excellence and national accreditation, will be primarily dedicated to teaching graduate and post-graduate studies on STEM for citizens of LDCs and graduated

countries. Development partners are invited to host the university and provide predictable financing to cover students' tuition fees and expenses, including those related to access to internet and internet-enabled devices.

**Presentations:**

- Mr Thomas Stelzer, Dean and Executive Secretary, International Anti-Corruption Academy
- Professor Asha Kanwar, President of Commonwealth of Learning (video message)

**Interactive Discussion**

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## 9:50 – 11:50      **SESSION 2: Finance Support**

**Moderator:** Mr E. Courtenay Rattray, High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and Secretary-General of LDC5

### [2.A: Supporting Access to Different Sources of Finance \(10:00 – 10:55\)](#)

LDCs are committed to provide whole-of-society national sustainable development strategies and costed medium-term financing frameworks. Enhanced access to all sources of financing, including long-term sustainable finance, will be needed to implement such frameworks. In this respect, capacity building for Financing for Sustainable Development, and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), that would help LDCs benefit from sustainable financing sources, strengthen their regulatory and policy environment, and support existing initiatives to develop pipelines of investable projects will be crucial. The UN is currently supporting around 30 LDCs in developing INFFs.

**Presentations:**

- Mr Oliver Schwank, Senior Economist, Office for Financing for Sustainable Development, DESA
- Mr Thomas Beloe, SDG Finance Advisor, Finance Sector Hub, UNDP

**Interactive Discussion**

### [2.B: Blended Finance for LDCs \(10:55-11:50\)](#)

There is widespread agreement that innovative finance, including blended finance, is needed in LDCs to leverage additional, substantial, predictable finance, and disburse it in a manner that respects their priorities and special needs and does not unduly burden them.

Blended finance could include grant support for project development, concessional loans and guarantees for early-stage SME growth and for municipal infrastructure projects. LDCs need catalytic investments that help to build a pipeline of projects that can access funding from local institutions or prepare them to access additional international finance.

**Presentations:**

- Ms Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary, UNCDF
- Ms Laura Gabriela Jaitman, Special Representative to the UN, World Bank (Virtually)

**Interactive Discussion**

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### **11:50-12:10 Coffee Break**

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## 12:10-13:30      **Session 3: Building Resilience and Sustainable Progress**

**Moderator:** Ms. Margherita Musollino, Senior Programme Management Officer, OHRLLS

Building resilience against various potential covariate shocks and crises is the first line of defense to protect lives and livelihoods of the people. It is also crucial to building a sustainable path out of the LDC Category.

### [3.A: Resilience Building Mechanism \(12:10 – 12:50\)](#)

Building resilience against various potential covariate shocks and crises is the first line of defense to protect lives and livelihoods of the people. It is important to build the capacity of households to prepare for, cope with, and adapt to shocks in a manner that protects their well-being: ensuring that they do not fall into poverty or become trapped in poverty as a result of the impacts.

A comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience building mechanism for LDCs could be designed, leveraging existing measures and initiatives. The mechanism, which would entail a number of measures to be established or revitalized at the national, regional and global levels, would cover the response to various types of disasters and shocks, including pandemics. This will enable countries to save lives and money, speed up response times and bring more predictability and rigor to their global response to shocks and crises. A number of measures, including financial, regulatory and institutional, need to be put in place to establish and operationalize this mechanism for LDCs.

#### **Presentations:**

- Mr Lesley Ndlovu, CEO, African Risk Capacity Insurance Limited (Virtually)
- Ms Diane Quarless, Chief, Caribbean Office, ECLAC (Virtually)

#### **Interactive Discussion**

### [3.B: Sustainable Graduation Support Facility \(12:50 – 13:30\)](#)

Building on the work carried out by the Inter-Agency Task Force, a sustainable graduation support facility is being developed as a country-led global platform to provide dedicated capacity development support in the form of policy and technical advisory services delivered through a better coordinated and coherent UN System. The facility is currently being piloted and would be jointly established through OHRLLS and the DESA/CDP Secretariat and will serve as a repository and clearing house of initiatives and projects pursued in support of these countries' sustainable graduation.

#### **Presentations:**

- Ms Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS
- Mr Roland Mollerus, Secretary of the CDP, DESA

#### **Interactive Discussion**

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## **13:30-14:30 Lunch**

**Working Lunch** (in person only)

#### **Keynote statement:**

- Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

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## **14:30 – 16:45   SESSION 4: Trade and Investment**

**Moderator:** Ms Susanna Wolf, Head of LDC Unit, OHRLLS

#### [4.A: International Investment Support Center/Investment promotion mechanism \(14:30-15:15\)](#)

An International Investment Support Center (IISC) for LDCs and graduated countries could support bankable project preparation, contract negotiation, provide advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution, and provide access to information on investment facilities and risk insurance and guarantees. This could be done in partnership with other organizations and entities already involved in this space, such as the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), UNCTAD, UNIDO, IDLO and other relevant entities.

A relevant ongoing initiative in this area, developed by OHRLLS in cooperation with IDLO, and implemented by IDLO, is the Investment Support Program for the LDCs (ISP/LDCs). Another relevant initiative recently developed by OHRLLS in collaboration with EIF, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, and WAIPA, aims at strengthening investment promotion capabilities in LDCs, by improving institutional capacity and the business climate. This initiative will focus on the role of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in contributing to growth and accumulation of sustainable FDI. It will also seek to intensify regional and interregional cooperation between IPAs from LDCs and increase collaboration of LDC IPAs with relevant international organizations.

##### **Presentations:**

- Mr James Zhan, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD (Virtually)
- Mr Paul Wessendorp, Chief, Investment Promotion Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD (Virtually)
- Mr Patrizio Civili, Special Advisor to the Director General, International Development Law Organization (IDLO) (In Person), Ms Alessandra Mistura, Manager of ISP/LDCs, IDLO (Virtually)

##### **Interactive Discussion**

#### [4.B: Enhanced Aid for Trade \(15:15 -15:45\)](#)

There is recognition that Aid for Trade to LDCs needs to be extended, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework, with the objective to enhance the institutional and productive capacity of the LDCs and in line with the pledge to leave no country behind. Private and public sector actors need to work together to address trade finance gaps, by enabling a rapid transition to paperless trading and addressing regulatory constraints that hinder trade finance.

##### **Presentation:**

- Mr Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, EIF (Virtually)
- Mr Olivier Cattaneo, Head, Policy Analysis and Strategy Unit, OECD (Virtually)

##### **Interactive Discussion**

#### [4.C: Investment in Sustainable Energy \(15:45-16:15\)](#)

Access to energy multiplies the impact and potential of sustainable development. Investments in sustainable energy across its three dimensions of access, efficiency and renewability are severely lacking in the LDCs. Public finances, although limited, will continue to play an important role in leveraging sustainable energy investments, attracting the private sector and bringing new markets to maturity. A recent report by UN-OHRLLS, UNDP and the World Bank calls for 50 per cent of the annual financing

flows to clean cooking and electricity access to be directed to the LDCs. To mobilise sustainable energy investments at scale, changes are needed both in the financial sector and the energy sector.

**Presentation:**

- Dr. Gabriela Elizondo Azuela, Head of Energy Sector Management Assistant Programme (ESMAP), the World Bank

**Discussant:**

- Mr Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Director and Executive Coordinator, Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP (Virtually)

**Interactive Discussion**

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**16:15-16:30 Coffee Break**

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**16:30-17:00 Closing Session**

**Moderator:** Ms Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS

**Speakers:**

- Mr E. Courtenay Rattray, High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and Secretary-General of LDC5
- H.E. Ms Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, LDC5 Host Country
- H.E. Ms Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Co-Chair of LDC5 PrepCom
- H.E. Mr Robert Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada, Co-Chair of LDC5 PrepCom
- H.E. Mr Perks Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi, Chair of the LDCs Group

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**17:15** Depart Tarrytown House Estate