



OPPORTUNITIES

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE
DO NO HARM
GOVERNANCE



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



25 MAY 2021

8:15 - 9:45 NYT

REGISTER

ARAB LDCs
Development Challenges and Opportunities



ESCWA side event in the margins of the upcoming Preparatory Committee for the upcoming Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs (LDC5)

25 MAY 2021

15:15 to 16:45 Beirut time - 08:15 to 09:45 New York time

ONLINE MEETING

1. BACKGROUND

The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2011-2020 (IPoA) is coming to an end. The overarching goal of the (IPoA) was to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty and achieve internationally agreed development goals. The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-V) will take place from 23 to 27 January 2022 in Doha, Qatar. It will be preceded by a comprehensive preparatory process based on national, regional and global reviews of the Istanbul Program of Action.

This conference is relevant for the work of ESCWA as it will adopt a new Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This new programme is designed to cover the remaining ten years of the Agenda 2030 implementation and is therefore of special importance for both the LDC ESCWA member states as well as donors of development aid. The Conference is expected to undertake a comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action (IPoA) in each LDC, as well as on sub-regional and regional levels. It will be an opportunity to share best practices, lessons learned and discuss constraints and challenges encountered, to plan strategically for the next decade to enable LDCs to graduate from the category and meet the SDG targets, while building on a solid foundation of national ownership and a reinvigorated global partnership for LDCs' sustainable development. The outcomes of these broad-based reviews will feed into the work of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee ('PrepCom').

For this purpose, ESCWA will convene a side meeting on 25 May 2021 for a period of 90 minutes, in the margins of the First Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom1) of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), which will be held from 24 to 28 May 2021 on United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

This meeting is an opportunity to present the outcomes and recommendations of the regional meeting that ESCWA held with the four official representatives from the least developed countries, namely Yemen, Mauritania, Somalia and Sudan, donors and other regional and international stakeholders in order to reach:

- First, to a common Arab vision through agreed foundational elements of this vision from the recipient and donor countries.
- This meeting aims to present the priorities raised by the four official representatives from the least developed countries, and to define what is required from development partners (donors and international organizations) towards the least developed countries.
- The meeting seeks to discuss the possibility of establishing a close follow-up mechanism during the next decade, finding solutions to financing problems and how to bridge financing gaps and mobilizing resources to serve development projects, not just relief.

3. SUGGESTED AGENDA

07:45-08:15

14:45-15:15

Login to test platform

Opening remarks:

08:15-08:30

- Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, ESCWA

15:15-15:30

- His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Qatar (TBC)

Session (1):

A quick review of the themes of the report on the Arab LDCs and the outputs and recommendations of the regional meeting organized by ESCWA in February 2021 to monitor development challenges and opportunities for the decade 2021-2030, which brought together representatives of the governments of the four LDCs, representatives of Arab donor countries and other regional and international institutions.

Moderator: Mr. Karam Karam, Regional Adviser on Governance, and Institutional Building.

Speaker: Younes Abouyoub, Chief of the Governance and State-building Section (10 min)

08:30-09:15

15:30-16:15

The perspective of the representatives of the governments of Arab LDCs; Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, on the national priorities that should be included in the global agenda for the next LDCs decade?

- His Excellency Ousmane Mamoudou Kane, Minister of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors in Mauritania. (7 minutes)
- His Excellency Ali Giddo Adam Bashr, Minister of Trade and Supply in Sudan (7 minutes)
- His Excellency Waed Abdullah Abdulrazzaq Badhib, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen (7 minutes)
- His Excellency Hassan Mohamed Ali, Deputy Director of the Department of Arab Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the Federal Republic of Somalia (7 minutes)

Session (2):

The viewpoint of development partners and donors on the challenges facing the development path in the LDCs, the proposed scenarios for solving solutions to financing problems and how to bridge financing gaps and mobilizing resources to serve development projects, not just relief.

09:15-09:30

16:15-16:30

Moderator: Mr. Karam Karam, Regional Adviser on Governance, and Institutional Building.

- His Excellency Khalifa Jassim Al-Kuwari, Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development (5 minutes)
- His Excellency Mohammed Bin Saeid AL Jaber, General Supervisor of the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (5 minutes)
- Mr. Khaled Faisal Al-Khaled, Deputy Director General for Operations Department for International Organizations and Bodies Affairs at the Kuwait Fund (5 minutes)

Closing session:

09:30-09:45

16:30-16:45

- Towards a common vision for building the next decade's agenda: Agreeing on the foundational elements of a common vision for Arab beneficiary and donor countries.
- Open discussion on the follow-up mechanism of the next decade agenda.

Moderator: Mr. Karam Karam, Regional Adviser on Governance, and Institutional Building.

Speaker: Younes Abouyoub, Chief of the Governance and State-building Section (10 min)