



Least Developed Countries
Landlocked Developing Countries
Small Island Developing States

United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed
Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing
States (UN-OHRLLS)**

**Report of the Nineteenth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting of the United Nations
system and international organisations on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme
of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020**

Conference Room 11

United Nations Secretariat Building, New York

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Acronyms

AAAA	Addis-Ababa Action Agenda
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
IACG	Inter-agency Consultative Group
IATF	Inter-agency Task Force on Least Developed Country Graduation
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPoA	Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDC-V	Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Organization
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

The Nineteenth meeting of the IACG of the UN system and international organizations on the Implementation of the IPoA was held in New York on 11 November 2019. The meeting was organized by UN-OHRLLS. The IACG meeting provided a platform for the participating agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to share an update on their efforts to support the LDCs across the priority areas of the IPoA and to discuss contributions towards the preparations for UNLDC-V.

Opening remarks and preparations for UNLDC-V

Opening remarks and update on the status of preparations for UNLDC-V

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS, noted that the IPoA is approaching its final year, and preparations for the next Programme of Action had already begun. She recalled having addressed, a week earlier, the UNIDO LDC Ministerial Conference, which marked the first pre-conference event feeding into LDC-V. She added that a synthesis report prepared by UN-OHRLLS will present the main findings from LDCs' national reports (due by the end of the year and available on the [LDC-V web page](#)) and will feed into the preparatory process. She also mentioned the National Focal Point Meeting, held later that week, during which LDCs were invited to share their preliminary findings.

She also announced that an African (including Haiti) regional meeting would most likely take place in Malawi in spring 2020, while an Asia-Pacific regional meeting will most likely be held in April 2020. She underlined the importance for the UN system to participate actively in these regional preparatory meetings, as they will provide insight into the challenges faced by LDCs and their intentions for the next programme of action. She then cited several other high-level intergovernmental milestones providing important inputs into UNLDC-V, including the WTO Ministerial, the International Labour Conference, the ECA and ESCAP annual meetings, the Sustainable Energy for All Forum, and the UNCTAD XV Conference. She added that the Financing for Development Forum and Development Cooperation Forum represented further engagement opportunities.

She stated that these events should result in concrete and practical recommendations for the next programme of action, to be discussed at the first Prep Com in September 2020. She added that a zero draft would be prepared afterwards, in view of the second Prep Com scheduled for January 2021. She further stated that UN-OHRLLS will also engage with various stakeholders, namely civil society, private sector, parliamentarians and academia. She

highlighted that a major academic conference on the theme “Achieving Sustainable Development in the Least Developed Countries: Towards UNLDC-V” will be held in Helsinki from 15 to 16 October 2020, bringing together the academic community, policymakers and practitioners to initiate new reflections on LDC challenges and issue policy recommendations for LDCs in the next decade.

She concluded by saying that UN-OHRLLS is looking to support civil society and parliamentarians’ engagement in the preparatory process as well as at the conference. She expressed hope that UN agencies take the lead in organizing pre-conference events on relevant areas such as food security, poverty and resilience, indebtedness, and that this IACG meeting contributes to shaping the preparatory process. She then opened the floor for discussion.

Presentations on substantive preparations, including thematic assessments and pre-conference events

The representative of the WTO noted that the WTO would contribute actively to the preparatory process and conference, by participating in regional reviews and organizing, possibly in collaboration with UN-OHRLLS and other UN agencies, a side event on LDC graduation, where it would present the recommendations of the EIF-WTO project on LDC graduation. He reiterated WTO’s invitation to UN-OHRLLS to brief the WTO Sub-Committee on LDCs on UNLDC-V preparations. He also stated that the outcomes and discussions at the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 8-11 June 2020 would represent an important signpost for trade issues for UNLDC-V. He added that a meeting of LDC Trade Ministers at the Conference would discuss LDC priorities in the multilateral trading system, which would be of relevance for LDC-V and the next programme of action. He also informed that the WTO would organize a side-event at MC12 on graduation where it would present the report of the EIF-WTO project on LDC graduation. He then mentioned that the WTO planned to make two major substantive contributions to LDC-V: (i) a report on LDC graduation; and (ii) a dedicated report for LDC-V on LDC issues in the multilateral trading system. Regarding the latter, he informed that the WTO intended to provide tailored contributions to both regional pre-conference events which would then be consolidated to the dedicated report for LDC-V in late 2020 or early 2021.

The representative of UNIDO stated that UNIDO’s Operational Strategy towards LDCs (2011-2020) derived directly from the IPoA, and that UNIDO’s projects in LDCs were thus aligned with multiple IPoA priority areas, namely productive capacity, human and social development, and emerging challenges. UNIDO then referred to the review and consolidation of outcomes of UNIDO’s operational strategy, which aimed not only at assessing UNIDO’s contribution to the implementation of the IPoA, but also at guiding UNIDO’s operational

strategy for LDCs beyond 2020 as well as feeding into the preparatory processes of both the Eighth Ministerial Conference and LDC-V. UNIDO noted that this exercise aimed at designing new instruments and tools to better monitor results, and emphasised the importance of lessons learnt in view of LDC-V. UNIDO was currently implementing 167 programmes and projects, in part under the Programme for Country Partnerships and had organised the First International Agroindustry Investment Forum with the Government of Ethiopia in 2016. UNIDO emphasized innovative multi-stakeholder approaches and enhanced partnerships for greater mobilization of resources and impact on the ground, as provided in the model of the Programme for Country Partnerships. The representative of UNIDO observed that structural transformation of LDCs had remained low, as had technology development and the production base, and that this would further hinder LDCs. He noted the importance of the mobilizing the international community to bring about change in this regard.

The representative of the Technology Bank for LDCs noted that he had found discussions at UNIDO's Eighth Ministerial Conference to be substantive and informative. He was looking forward to working with UNIDO, particularly on innovation.

The representative of ESCAP informed that ESCAP adopted a two-prong approach: (i) working with landlocked LDCs, mostly based in South Asia, namely through events organized with the WTO and EIF targeting Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and (ii) supporting small island LDCs, namely through a workshop on resource mobilization for a smooth transition and subsequent validation workshop in Vanuatu. He also referred to the IATF workshop in the Solomon Islands. He stated that ESCAP was working on mobilizing financial resources for LDCs, namely through a preparatory meeting targeting all SIDS, and expressed the hope that all least developed country SIDS attend this meeting, likely to take place in March 2020 in Fiji. He added that ESCAP was also planning a national workshop on resource mobilization in Bangladesh during the first quarter of 2020. He informed that this event could contribute to the Asia-Pacific regional review process, which ESCAP looked forward to organizing in collaboration with UN-OHRLS and others. He added that ESCAP would report on the outcome of the Asia-Pacific regional review at the Special Body on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS during ESCAP's annual commission session in Bangkok from 18 to 22 May 2020. He also reported that Bangladesh would be tabling a resolution at the next session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, asking for support in the creation of a group of recently and soon-to-be graduated countries. He finally raised the issue of post-graduation support, which should be strengthened as the IACG looks to enhance its support to LDCs in the graduation pipeline.

The representative of UNCTAD highlighted that UNCTAD would have its fifteenth quadrennial conference from 18 to 23 October 2020, which will contribute to the preparatory process for UNLDC-V, and during which a ministerial event on structural transformation was planned. He also underscored UNCTAD's intention to organize an event parallel to UNLDC-V, possibly a high-level dialogue facilitating peer-to-peer learning and sharing of LDC policymakers on

experiences in terms of productive capacity and structural transformation. He further affirmed UNCTAD's intention to participate in other events as part of the preparatory process for UNLDC-V, particularly the regional preparations and academic event. He then presented three analytical and policy-oriented contributions of UNCTAD to the preparatory process and LDC-V, namely: (i) a publication compiling policy analysis and recommendations; (ii) a productive capacity index to be launched in 2020, possibly with regional commissions (ECLAC, ESCAP) and at UN headquarters; and (iii) the 2019 and 2020 LDC Reports, expected to be launched the following week and in October 2020, respectively.

A representative of UN-OHRLLS explained that there would be two phases to the African (including Haiti) regional review. She informed that a first ministerial-level regional meeting would be held in Malawi, in spring 2020, and would cover main challenges in the implementation of the IPoA. She announced that letters of invitation for that first meeting would be sent in early December to heads of LDCs in Africa and Haiti. She added that the negotiated outcome of that first meeting would then be endorsed at the ECA commission session, scheduled for mid-March in Addis Ababa. She concluded by saying that UN-OHRLLS and ECA looked forward to the IACG's contributions to these two events.

Another representative of UN-OHRLLS announced that UN-OHRLLS was organising an academic conference from 15 to 16 October 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, to discuss issues of importance in the preparation of the UNLDC-V outcome document and inputs from the academic community for policy recommendations. He noted that a call for papers had been issued (available [online](#)) and that papers would be welcome until 18 December. He finally expressed hope that colleagues from international organizations, UN agencies and others contribute to the conference.

The representative of UNU-WIDER said that UNU-WIDER has worked on many aspects of the IPoA and had been especially influential on the Human Development Report. He reported that UNU-WIDER has worked, for example, on structural transformation and industrialization, on gender equality in the labour force, and on inequality across and within countries. He emphasised the need for good data, which proves challenging in most LDCs, and announced it is creating a new database as part of its work on structural transformation, which would be available in 2020. He concluded by saying that UNU-WIDER's work would feed into the academic conference and, in turn, UNLDC-V.

The representative of the CDP secretariat highlighted four critical issues for the next programme of action, namely: (i) aligning the new programme of action with the SDGs; (ii) organizing the new programme of action around the topic of expanding productive capacity for sustainable development; (iii) reflecting and supporting graduation more; (iv) addressing vulnerabilities more. He noted that the CDP has been looking more into the second issue and would have more details to share at the next CDP plenary at the end of February 2020. He also mentioned an Experts Group meeting happening concurrently with this IACG meeting, on financing for sustainable development for graduating countries. He added that the CDP is

looking at improving the graduation process itself, by better integrating decision-making and preparation processes, and by offering a common graduation assessment, and enhance graduation support through better coordination, as achieved by the IATF. He noted the CDP was reviewing the graduation criteria with a view to adopting revised criteria in 2020. He noted the CDP would organize another briefing on the issue later this year. He noted the CDP's had emphasized the importance of expanding productive capacity for the next Programme of Action, remarking that structural transformation has not happened in most LDCs. He also noted that in some LDCs, progress had been made on structural transformation with a shift directly from the primary to the tertiary sector, but that challenges remain as these countries still have not diversified. He added that, in LDCs on average, progress during the 2000's in terms of income growth had not been accompanied by progress in terms of structural transformation, and that the unfavourable commodity price cycle has again presented a challenge to LDCs.

The representative of DESA highlighted the following DESA activities: (i) analysis underway for the 2020 Financing for Sustainable Development Report, which will highlight LDC issues; (ii) the Financing for Development Forum in April 2020; and (iii) the Development Cooperation Forum in May 2020, which would focus on reaching those furthest behind.

The representative of the FAO mentioned that the FAO has appointed a focal point to allow the FAO to engage more closely in the process towards UNLDC-V. She also reported that the FAO established a unit on LDCs as well as an initiative focusing on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, aimed at offering a matchmaking facility between donors and recipient countries to prioritise intervention in these countries. She also remarked that the FAO has been working closely with UNIDO, especially on tapping the potential of rural areas in the areas of agroindustry and agro-processing. She underlined the increasing food insecurity and hunger crisis as a particular challenge for rural areas.

The representative of the WFP affirmed that the WFP would be looking at food systems in countries in which the agency was working. He noted that UNLDCV also presented an opportunity for these organizations to showcase solutions that support food security as well as environmental sustainability, South-South cooperation, nutrition, and economic opportunities for low-income populations.

The representative of the IMF noted the IMF regularly carried out activities at the UN on indebtedness, for example, in the context of side events and the Financing for Development process. She informed the meeting that the IMF was evaluating the possibility of holding events in the coming months on debt and vulnerabilities for LDCs and other economies.

The representative of the ITC highlighted the Small and Medium Enterprises Competitiveness Outlook, which focuses on a number of LDCs. She noted that the 2019 Report had been launched in June and that the 2020 version will be launched in June 2020. She also mentioned the Annual World Export Development Forum, which would examine how to unlock the

potential of SMEs in LDCs. She noted that this year's edition will take place in Ethiopia while next year's will be in Mongolia. She finally noted that the ITC had participated in UNIDO's Ministerial Meeting the previous month.

The representative of WIPO suggested institution building for STI and intellectual property in LDCs as well as technology for development of LDCs as two areas of focus for UNLDC-V. She noted that WIPO intended to contribute to regional and interregional forums for LDCs, with UN-OHRLS and other UN agencies, to review the implementation of WIPO deliverables and discuss potential WIPO deliverables for the next decade. She reported that the assessment of WIPO deliverables had begun, and that WIPO was engaged in the preparation of regionally focused platforms to exchange information on approved national projects. She highlighted key publications by WIPO in support of UNLDC-V preparations, including: (i) an evaluation report on the implementation of WIPO deliverables for the implementation of the IPoA; (ii) a report on WIPO's activities on technological capacity building undertaken for the benefit of LDCs under the IPoA framework; (iii) an evaluation report on the implementation of WIPO's activities on transfer of appropriate technologies for LDCs; (iv) reports on transfer of appropriate technologies; and (v) a publication on lead success stories in the application of appropriate technologies for the development of LDCs.

The representative of ITU noted that ITU would be happy to participate in the UNLDCV process and would provide its full support, focusing on the issue of connectivity and was considering a side event for the conference. She noted that ITU would be working on a report on ICT development in LDCs.

The representative of the IAEA recommended the following three substantive areas of focus for UNLDC-V: (i) innovations in science and technology in areas contributing to LDCs' socioeconomic development; (ii) climate change mitigation through the use of nuclear techniques; and (iii) mainstreaming isotope hydrology into comprehensive national strategic plans for groundwater resources management. She further suggested that the IAEA take the lead or co-organise side-events on the contributions of science and technology to socioeconomic development in LDCs, focusing for example on the peaceful use of nuclear applications in health, food and agriculture, zoonotic disease, and industry. She finally mentioned, a joint publication of the IAEA and UNOSSC, "South-South in Action," launched at earlier in the year.

The representative of UNDRR noted that LDCs are disproportionately affected by disasters and that progress on the SDGs would be undermined if development is not risk informed in LDCs. UNDRR hoped to contribute to the preparatory process and the conference accordingly. He noted that UNDRR was working with Member States to develop local and national disaster risk reduction policies by the 2020 deadline set by the Sendai Framework, and this was another key area where policy coherence could be achieved in the follow-up to the IPoA and national sustainable development strategies. He also reported that UNDRR was working to identify gaps in national planning and national budgets for funding disaster risk reduction. He

added that data in many national disaster loss databases and the Sendai Framework Monitor could contribute to the graduation process and the economic vulnerability index. He noted that the next UNDRR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction would be released in 2022 and that a special issue on drought would be released in 2020 which could provide inputs for the LDC-V preparatory process. He also informed that a regional platform for disaster risk reduction would be held in June 2020 for the Asia-Pacific region and that details would follow for the regional platform in Africa. He noted that a coherent approach was important in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, and that UNDRR would gladly support countries in building capacity in this area as well as strengthen coherence with the outcome of the 2021 conference.

The representative of OSAA confirmed that OSAA would work with UN-OHRLS and ECA towards the regional preparatory meeting in Malawi. She suggested that peace, security and development in Africa be considered a theme, as most LDCs were located in Africa and next year would mark the tenth anniversary of the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative.

The representative of ILO noted that ILO was planning a report on the future of work in LDCs to present at the conference or as a pre-conference event. He added that case studies and research papers in the form of policy briefs would be available before the report and would feed into the preparatory process. He declared that ILO would participate in the academic conference and make analytical contributions to regional review meetings in 2020. He added that ILO was considering hosting side-events, possibly a policy dialogue on investment promotion agencies and the implementation of the recommendation of promoting foreign direct investment.

The representatives of UNOSSC suggested looking at South-South financing mechanisms and showcasing the contributions of the South-South Trust Fund Mechanisms (e.g., India-UN Fund, G77 Fund, IBSA Fund) in LDCs during a dedicated session. The importance of South-South and triangular cooperation was highlighted and UNOSSC underscored its interest in organizing side events with UN-OHRLS during the conference, presenting examples of success stories in LDCs.

Update on the implementation of the IPoA and Antalya Midterm Review outcome as well as on efforts to build synergies and coherence with the 2030 Agenda

The representative of UNCTAD highlighted developments since April, including on investment policy reviews for LDCs (Chad, Nepal and Mali). He also provided information on UNCTAD's Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessment of LDCs, under which 22 assessments in LDCs had been finalized, with five more (Kiribati, Malawi, Mali, and Tanzania and Tuvalu) scheduled for publication by the end of the year, and two others (Benin and Niger) in progress and

scheduled for early 2020. He added that UNCTAD would strive to respond to the additional 13 requests it has received for readiness assessments.

The representative of UNIDO informed that UNIDO provides assistance to LDCs through regional, interregional, and global technical cooperation projects. UNIDO reported on progress in piloting activities under the Programme for Partnerships approach in two African LDCs (Ethiopia and Senegal), which would be extending to five to seven other countries, including three LDCs (Zambia, Rwanda and Cambodia). UNIDO noted that more than 20 entities were working to finalise the development of a joint roadmap on the implementation of the AAAA, which was another platform providing support for structural transformation in LDCs, especially in Africa. The ongoing review would produce a set of reports that would be useful in compiling the results of the outcome in 2020, especially on agroindustry, energy involvement, trade capacity building, and focusing on industrial policy instruments in LDCs. They concluded by saying that they would share additional information by email.

The representative of the WTO began by citing the latest Report of the Secretariat on LDC Trade and Market Access, considered the previous week by the WTO Sub-Committee on LDCs. Despite a strong export performance in 2018, the LDCs continued to face high trade deficits and their world exports remained below their share in 2011. He reported that while expansion of duty-free and quota-free market access coverage of certain Members had been limited, recent discussions had focused on the utilization of preferences by the LDCs. Progress had been made on preferential rules of origin and discussions had continued on the operationalization of the LDC services waiver. He informed that a dedicated session had been held from 29 to 30 October 2019 to review the operationalization of the waiver, during which LDCs discussed the export obstacles faced by their service suppliers as well as the need for a more holistic approach to increase LDC participation in world services trade. He also reported on ongoing work to improve the implementation of Article 66.2 in the TRIPS Agreement on technology transfer – noting that LDCs might submit a specific proposal for this at the next Ministerial Conference – as well as limited activity on LDC accessions despite continued domestic reform efforts from acceding LDCs. He referred to the 2019 Aid for Trade Global Review, which addressed LDC issues and LDC graduation. He also mentioned ongoing research on natural disasters and trade, with a third thematic Symposium held on 10 May 2019 and a fourth scheduled for 29 November 2019. He further reported that WTO was continuing implementation of the EIF-WTO project on graduation, with progress on analytical work to be presented at MC12 in June 2020. He mentioned that the WTO had co-organised with ESCAP a regional workshop on graduation in Bangkok from 30 April to 2 May 2019, had joined the IATF mission to Sao Tome and Principe in September, and had organized with EIF and PIFS a regional workshop on graduation in Vanuatu on 22-24 October 2019.

The Director of UN-OHRLS stated that UN-OHRLS has begun preparations for UNLDC-V and would work with IACG members to ensure that the conference delivered a new Programme of Action that would effectively helps LDCs in the last decade of implementation of the SDGs.

She reported on the key takeaways from recent workshops of the IATF in Sao Tome and Principe and the Solomon Islands, namely that: (i) every country's situation was unique and UN support needs to be customised accordingly; (ii) peer learning and support were important; (iii) financing and capacity building were equally important in ensuring a smooth transition; (iv) vulnerabilities remained and needed to be addressed; (v) collaboration could be improved to provide targeted measures and avoid duplication of efforts; and (vi) a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach was essential.

The representative of the ITC informed the meeting that ITC's work supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in LDCs to improve their competitiveness and use trade as a lever of growth and job creation. She noted that ITC's contributions centred around: (i) building productive capacities for LDCs to strengthen their trade competitiveness; (ii) supporting LDCs in regional trade integration; (iii) leveraging private sources of finance for LDCs; and (iv) providing trade-related technical support for LDCs in relation to people on the move. For the first area, she gave the examples of the Bhutan Trade and Investment Support, the Lesotho National Export Strategy and building productive capacity in the Senegalese mango value chain; for the second area, she mentioned Intra-Regional Trade Support for Asian LDCs and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The representative of WIPO reported that, in September 2019, WIPO had organized a retreat for LDC Ambassadors to discuss the role of technology and innovation in socioeconomic development in LDCs. She added that WIPO effectively participated in building international property institutions and systems in LDCs. She also stated that WIPO considered the establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centres as a priority area of assistance to LDCs. She further informed on various WIPO initiatives for skills development and capacity building. She finally reported on the expansion of WIPO's programme on transfer of appropriate technology, the creation of a centre of excellence on the use of appropriate technology and the provision of technological training in several LDCs.

The representative of the IAEA noted that the IAEA's technical assistance to LDCs was guided by resolutions of its General Conference and Board of Governors. She noted that an interregional project had been approved in the last year, which aimed at enhancing LDCs' capacity to effectively use nuclear applications for sustainable development. She further reported that the IAEA, in collaboration with the FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNIDO and UNCCD, was helping LDCs to develop national communication strategies to redress their perception of nuclear technology.

The representative of the Technology Bank for LDCs reported that the Technology Bank for LDCs had, since its operationalization, undertaken numerous activities to enhance STI capacity in LDCs and assist LDCs in accessing and adapting appropriate technologies. He gave the examples of technology needs assessments, a programme to enhance STI capacity in LDCs, technology innovation labs, a global digital technology transfer platform for LDCs (in the process), training in LDCs on the use of geospatial information technologies for enhanced

decision-making that addresses global environmental challenges, and a programme to strengthen academies of science in LDCs. He provided information on four regional consultations held in Africa, and a planned regional consultation for Asia and the Pacific in February 2020.

The representative of ITU stated that ITU was mainstreaming LDCs' needs in all its activities through a special programme for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as through regional initiatives. She gave examples of ITU's work, namely in facilitating ICT infrastructure development, promoting gender equality, building institutional and human capacity, designing policy and regulatory reform, implementing projects in partnership with member states and/or other stakeholders, assisting in cybersecurity, emergency telecommunications, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. She added that ITU had: (i) supported LDCs in their graduation and smooth transition by providing concentrated assistance; (ii) implemented training programmes and offered technical expertise to LDCs for human and institutional capacity building; (iii) taken LDC status into consideration for financing and fellowships; (iv) emphasised partnerships to achieve, among other things, universal and affordable access to the Internet in LDCs; (v) adopted several resolutions towards LDCs; and (vi) produced statistics and issued publications highlighting the gaps in LDCs and monitoring ICT development in LDCs.

Conclusion

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, UN-OHRLLS, noted the importance of this IACG meeting in the beginning of the preparatory process towards LDC-V. She acknowledged the significant work of each agency in support of the LDCs. She expressed concern on the performance of LDCs on certain indicators reported by the WTO, calling for renewed efforts. She also noted with appreciation the first participation of the Technology Bank for LDCs in an IACG meeting.

She announced that the process in preparation for LDC-V would intensify over the coming months, with a first planning mission to Qatar at the end of November. She noted the regional preparatory meetings in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region in the spring were important opportunities that would feed into the work of the regional commissions, as well as two Prep Coms on the intergovernmental side. She also reported that the Second Committee resolution is being discussed and includes elements for the Conference. She also stated that Bureaux would be appointed by regional groups for the meeting. She assured that UN-OHRLLS will keep the IACG informed about the intergovernmental process.

She recalled that the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs would be held from 5 to 6 December 2020 and encouraged IACG members to participate at the highest level possible. She expressed appreciation for the members' participation and looked forward to collaborating with the group in the preparations towards UNLDC-V.

Annex I: List of participants

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Mr. Gregory Barrett
Mr. Nicola Lipari

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Mr. Oliver Paddison

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ms. Carla Mucavi
Ms. Doris Ngirwa-Mpesha

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Ms. Iwona Gardon

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr. Massimiliano La Marca

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Ms. Erica Carroll

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Ms. Kadiatou Sall-Beye

International Trade Centre (ITC)

Ms. Riefqah Jappie

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Rolf Traeger

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Ms. Livia Sagliocco

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Paul Maseli
Mr. Victor Djembe
Mr. Manuel Mattiat
Mr. Ilkin Hajiyev

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Mr. Tarik Iziraren
Ms. Lidija Bujanja

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)

Ms. Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms. Petal Thomas

United Nations Technology Bank for LDCs

Mr. Joshua Setipa

Ms. Simmone Rose

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

Mr. Kunal Sen

World Food Programme (WFP)

Mr. Paul Skoczylas

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Ms. Ola Zahran

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Mr. Rainer Lanz

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu

Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox

Ms. Susanna Wolf

Mr. Aniket Ghai

Mr. Americo Beviglia Zampetti

Ms. Margherita Musollino-Berg

Ms. Miniva

Ms. Nathalie Risse

Annex II: Agenda

Nineteenth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting of the United Nations system and international organisations on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Monday, 11 November 2019, Conference Room 11, United Nations Secretariat, New York

10:00 – 13:00	Opening remarks and preparations for the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs (UNLDC-V) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks and update on the status of preparations for UNLDC-V, by Ms. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States• Presentations by participating organisations on substantive preparations, including thematic assessments and pre-conference events• Discussion, including on possible additional pre-conference events
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00-16:30	Update on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and Antalya Midterm Review outcome as well as on efforts to build synergies and coherence with the 2030 Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by OHRLLS on status of implementation of the IPoA• Presentations by participating organisations on their activities towards implementation of the IPoA and building synergies and coherence with the 2030 Agenda
16:30	Conclusion <p>Summary of discussion and concluding remarks by Ms. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States</p>
