

Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 emphasized the important role of different entities of the UN system in implementation and follow-up at the national, regional and global levels. The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020 (IPoA) requested the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.¹

One of the functions of UN-OHRLLS upon its establishment by the UN General Assembly in 2001 through its resolution 56/227, and as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report A/56/645, is the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels. This mandate is also reflected in the IPoA². In line with its mandate, UN-OHRLLS has since its inception convened and chaired the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LDCs.

The IACG has proved to be an effective and efficient tool for well-coordinated and coherent follow-up to the implementation of the Programmes of Action for the LDCs, as well as for the undertaking of joint initiatives of the wider UN system in support of the LDCs, and can further promote coherence with the implementation of the major agreed intergovernmental documents, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. There is, however, scope for further improvement of the IACG mechanism. The 2019 evaluation undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) recommended that UN-OHRLLS strengthen the IACG as a mechanism of coordination around implementation of the Programme of Action. The present Terms of Reference (TORs) have been developed in this context, with a view to strengthening the IACG. The TORs set out the main functions and working methods of the IACG on LDCs.

¹ See A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1, para. 153.

² See A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1, para. 155.

1. Main functions of the IACG

- 1.1. Provide a forum for representatives of its member organizations to meet regularly to exchange information with regard to their work on LDCs, including critical issues, challenges and opportunities, weaknesses, gaps and best practices on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the LDCs.
- 1.2. Identify areas which require enhanced complementarity and synergy, to curb duplication of activities of member agencies/organizations at the national, regional and global levels.
- 1.3. Ensure coherence and maximize synergies and complementarities in the activities of the member organizations in support of LDCs, through various efforts by the UN system at the national, regional and global levels, where appropriate, sharing of planned activities, and developing and implementing workplans where feasible, bearing in mind their respective comparative advantages, expertise and mandates.
- 1.4. Strengthen discussion, coordination of activities, as well as cooperation among its member organizations based on their respective comparative advantages, relevant mandate and expertise, and with the Group of LDCs in the implementation of activities and replicating and scaling up of best practices for the benefit of LDCs, inter alia, including undertaking, as appropriate, joint inter-agency projects, missions, training and capacity building activities, studies, reports and advocacy activities and other forms of cooperation.
- 1.5. Facilitate coordinated and inclusive preparations of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the LDCs and other relevant documents, in line with the relevant mandates, including by inviting comments and contributions by the IACG membership.
- 1.6. Enhance outreach activities to inform member states and other stakeholders about activities conducted by UN agencies for the implementation of the Programme of Action and SDGs in LDCs.
- 1.7. Share work programmes and updated information on IACG activities to the LDCs.
- 1.8. Identify thematic and region-specific topics for discussion and coordination of activities among relevant member organizations. Such thematic workstreams should be time-bound and results-oriented, and could be implemented through the establishment of open-ended ad hoc working groups or task forces.

2. Composition of membership

- 2.1. The membership of the IACG shall consist of United Nations System Organizations, including its departments, regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies, international and regional financial and development institutions, and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations whose work is relevant to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the LDCs. The IACG meetings shall be attended by representatives identified by the Heads of these departments, commissions, agencies and programmes as focal points for LDCs.

3. Modalities of operation

- 3.1. The IACG shall meet on a biannual basis, with additional meetings convened as needed.
- 3.2. The IACG may invite, on an ad-hoc basis, as observers and contributors to its discussions, Government officials, representatives of NGOs, private sector and other entities whose expertise may contribute to the IACG's work.
- 3.3. IACG member organizations are responsible for covering the costs, within their existing resources, of their participation in the IACG meetings.
- 3.4. In line with its mandate, UN-OHRLLS will facilitate the organization and servicing of the IACG meetings. The relevant information on the work of the IACG, including the record of the proceedings of the IACG meetings, list of members organizations of the IACG, and key documents will be posted and regularly updated on UN-OHRLLS public website.
