



MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPOA)

CONFERENCE ROOMS 11 / UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK / 13– 14 November 2019

Programme

13 November (Wednesday) Conference Room 11

09:20-09:50	Registration
10:00-10:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS• H.E. Mr. Perks Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the UN, and Chair of the LDC Group• H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar• H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark

10:30-11:00	<p>Introduction on preparations for the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Ms. Susanna Wolf, Deputy Chief, OHRLLS • Q&A
11:00-12:00	<p>Eradicating poverty, enhancing agriculture, food security and rural development</p> <p><i>(Eradication of poverty is an overarching goal of the IPoA. Despite some progress in the eradication of extreme poverty in LDCs since the adoption of the IPoA, it is projected that around 30 per cent of the population in LDCs will remain in extreme poverty by 2030. Agricultural development and rural development remain essential for ensuring food security, better nutrition and poverty eradication in LDCs. However, food insecurity in the LDCs has been perennial. The high level of exposure to adverse weather events provides an additional challenge. The session will highlight the actions taken (e.g., initiatives, policies, practices etc.,) and the impact from these actions.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Mr. Abdul Alim, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: The Gambia, Lao PDR, Togo <p>Interactive discussion</p>
12:00-13:00	<p>Enhancing productive capacity and achieving sustained economic growth</p> <p><i>(The IPoA designated productive capacity as a key priority area for action for LDCs. However, progress in enhancing and diversifying productive capacity in LDCs has been limited, with only a marginal increase in the contribution of manufacturing value added to growth. Most LDCs have failed to reach the target of 7 per cent GDP growth per annum as set out in the IPoA. This session will focus on actions taken to move the economy from low to high value activities, and, to promote economic growth. Participants will highlight lessons learned based on the actions taken and resulting impact of these actions.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Ms. Dawn Holland, Chief, Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, DESA</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Nepal • Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director of the Technology Bank for LDCs <p>Interactive discussion</p>
13:00-15:00	<p>Lunch break</p>
15:00-16:00	<p>Promoting sustainable energy</p> <p><i>(Access to affordable, reliable and modern energy is critical for LDCs to build productive capacity and achieve much-needed structural transformation.)</i></p>

	<p><i>However, LDCs are facing a huge energy gap with average access to electricity across LDCs standing at 51 per cent, and 15 LDCs having rural access below 10% in 2017. LDCs need significantly large investment in infrastructure and accelerate transition to sustainable energy to achieve SDG 7 and build resilience against climate change. This session will shed light on national experience in increasing energy access and address bottlenecks. It will also provide updates on the work of UN-OHRLLS in promoting access to sustainable energy in LDCs.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Ms. Susanna Wolf, Deputy Chief, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Zambia • Presentation by H.E. Mr. Taye Atskeselassie Made, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia on Coalition on Energy Access • Presentation by Mr. Eric Wanless, Senior Director of the Rocky Mountain Institute on Sustainable Energy Study on Malawi <p>Interactive discussion</p>
16:00-17:00	<p>Trade, commodities and investment</p> <p><i>(While the value of LDC exports of goods and services increased in 2018, their share of world exports remained at only 0.95 per cent, far below the target in the IPoA of doubling their export share by 2020. LDCs continue to exhibit a high degree of concentration on primary commodities, which is subject to high price volatility. This session will review experiences on how to benefit from trade preferences and diversify exports. Investment is another important area where LDCs are not been able to effectively benefit. The share of FDI flows to LDCs is still below 2% of the total global flows. UN-OHRLLS and IDLO will provide updates on the Investment Support Programme aimed at providing legal assistance for investment negotiations and dispute settlement to requesting LDCs.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Mr. Americo Zampetti, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal • Updates by UN-OHRLLS and IDLO on Investment Support Programme <p>Interactive discussion</p>

17:00-18:00	<p>Reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience: disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental sustainability</p> <p><i>(LDCs are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change and various types of disasters. However, resources provided for adaptation to climate change for LDCs under various mechanisms are far from meeting the needs. This session will share success stories, best practices and lessons learned, and identify possible areas of support to address climate change and enhance resilience-building in LDCs. Updates on LDCs-led initiatives at the Climate Action Summit will be provided.)</i></p> <p>Moderated Mr. Aniket Ghai, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Malawi, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu <p>Interactive discussion</p>
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14 November (Thursday) Conference Room 11

10:00-11:00	<p>Human and social development: improving health and education, access to water and sanitation, shelter, youth development and enhancing gender equality</p> <p><i>(LDCs are lagging behind in terms of access to essential services such as education, health, water and sanitation and productive resources. High population growth in LDCs further accentuates the challenges. Under-developed human capacity in LDCs undermines their efforts to achieve sustainable development. Despite progress made, in 2017, more than a third of all under-five deaths occurred in LDCs, and more than 1 in 5 children of primary school age were not in school. While progress has been made on gender parity in education and empowerment of women in decision-making, LDCs need to unlock the potentials of human capital including youth development with quality education and training in order to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. This session will share successful interventions undertaken and lessons learned in advancing human development and identify effective policy interventions.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Mr. Jacob Assa, Policy Specialist, Human Development Report Office, UNDP</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Bhutan, Sierra Leone <p>Interactive discussion</p>
11:00-12:15	<p>Mobilising financial resources for development and capacity building</p> <p><i>(Means of implementation remain a major challenge for LDCs which are facing a significant financing gap to meet the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and IPoA. LDCs are largely dependent on public resources to finance sustainable development needs. However, public expenditure has not been sufficient to meet the investment showcased by stagnant government revenue and decline of ODA.)</i></p>

	<p><i>Meanwhile, external debt is a major threat as a growing number of LDCs are in debt distress or at a high risk of debt distress. The session will share success stories and lessons learned in increasing resource mobilization and reducing the debt burden.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Ms. Susanna Wolf, Deputy Chief, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN-OHRLS</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania <p>Interactive discussion</p>
12:30-14:30	<p>Launch of <i>Out of the Trap: Supporting the Least Developed Countries</i> organized by the Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI)</p> <p>A separate programme will be prepared by FERDI</p>
15:00-16:00	<p>Good governance at all levels</p> <p><i>(The IPoA has a target to strengthen and effectively implement measures to prevent corruption and increase the transparency of budgets and expenditure. Many LDCs have made progress in this respect. Participants will share best practices and lessons learned in improving good governance, the rule of law, human rights and democratic participation. The session will also focus on how to enhance the voice and participation of LDCs in the global decision-making process in the sustainable development fields.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Ms. Yuxin Ai, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN-OHRLS</p> <p>Presentations (7 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States: Benin, Central African Republic, Mali, Sudan <p>Interactive discussion</p>
16:00-17:20	<p>Addressing emerging challenges</p> <p><i>(The world is facing numerous mega-trends and emerging challenges which will have major impacts on the sustainable development of LDCs. These include devastating impacts of climate change, frontier technologies, demographic changes, uncertainty in the global trading system, rapid urbanization, and conflicts and protracted crises. It is vitally important to pilot appropriate policies, measures and mechanisms in place for LDCs to enable them to effectively address the emerging challenges and harness the potentials of new opportunities, including those offered by new and emerging technologies. Based on the comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the IPoA in previous sessions and taking into account the mega-trends and emerging challenges, participants will brainstorm on the possible new priority areas as well as targeted and tailored support to be incorporated in the next Programme of Action for LDCs.</i></p>

	<p><i>Deliberations will provide substantive input to the intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document of the LDC-V.)</i></p> <p>Moderated by Mr. Abdul Alim, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, OHRLLS</p> <p>Presentation on Impact of Technological Changes on LDCs by Mr. Shahid Yusuf, Chief Economist of the Growth Dialogue, School of Business of the George Washington University</p> <p>Presentation on megatrends by Mr. Hamid Rashid, Chief, Development Research Branch, DESA</p> <p>Interactive discussion</p>
17:20-17:30	<p>Closing</p> <p>Concluding remarks: Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS</p>