



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP
TO FURTHER STUDY AND STRENGTHEN THE SMOOTH TRANSITION PROCESS FOR
THE COUNTRIES GRADUATING FROM THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY CATEGORY**

**First Substantive Meeting
16 February 2012, Conference Room 6 (NLB)
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

OBJECTIVES:

The meeting will take stock of the current situation regarding LDC-specific international support measures as well as existing smooth transition measures. The meeting will identify gaps and consider LDCs' concerns related to the phase-out of those measures. There will be an open and free-flowing exchange of views on what possible approaches could be developed to address those gaps and concerns.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Co-Chairs:

H.E. Mr. Jan Grauls
Permanent Representative of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Brian Bowler
Permanent Representative of Malawi

Introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs

Introductory presentations

H.E. Mr. Charles T. Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations

Ms. Edna Filomena Alves Barreto, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cape Verde to the United Nations

Interactive exchange

Thematic presentations and interactive discussions

Special measures for LDCs and implications of graduation in the area of trade

Ms. Annet Blank, Head LDC Unit, Development Division, WTO

Interactive exchange

Special measures for LDCs and implications of graduation in the areas of financial support and technical assistance

Mr. Rob Vos, Director, Development Policy and Analysis Division, DESA

Interactive exchange

Existing smooth transition measures

Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

Interactive exchange