

“Making Globalization work for the Least Developed Countries”

Ministerial Conference of LDCs

July 9-10, 2007

Istanbul, Turkey

Information for Participants

Introduction

Recent globalization has opened unprecedented opportunities for the movement of goods, services and people. Yet, the 50 poorest countries in the world classified by the United Nations as the least developed countries (LDCs) have failed to benefit from its fruits: liberalization of international trade, expansion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), integration of financial markets and technological innovations. Structural weakness of their economies, low human, institutional, technological, trade and productive capacities, poor physical and social infrastructure, degradation of environment and geographical handicaps, limited capability to mobilize domestic resources and lack of enabling environment to promote entrepreneurship and attract foreign investment which hamper their development and prevent them from fair competition at the international level. The situation is further exacerbated by their unsustainable external debt, spikes in oil prices and agricultural protectionism of industrial countries. Global warming or climate change has recently emerged as new challenge to the development of LDCs, in particular those that are small islands and in Africa. As a result, the LDCs are getting further marginalized in the global economy and remain trapped in the vicious circle of extreme poverty.

The two-day Ministerial Conference “Making Globalization Work for LDCs” will assess LDC participation in the global production, trade, financial, monetary and information systems and review the impact of globalization on the development of LDCs. It will identify concrete and practical measures, including programmes and projects, for the beneficial integration of LDCs in the world economy. It will assist in building coalitions of action among LDCs as well as partnerships between LDCs and their development partners, in pursuit of this goal, by bringing together all relevant actors. The conference will also provide a forum for sharing experience, lessons learned and best practices

The Conference will bring together Ministers, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, and National Focal Points of the 50 LDCs, government representatives, civil society and private sector stakeholders, academia and NGOs, and experts from UN-system agencies, financial institutions and international and regional organizations.

DATES

The Conference will take place from 9 to 10 July 2007. On site visits and a city tour will be organised for participants on 11 July 2007. Participants are therefore advised to arrive on 8 July and depart on 12 July.

VENUE

The venue of the Conference is the Conrad Hotel in Istanbul, Turkey.

Address:

Barbaros Blv.

Yildiz Cad. Besiktas,

Istanbul 80700 - Turkey

Tel: +90-212-227-3000

Guest Fax: +90-212-259-6667

ACCOMMODATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Government of Turkey will provide accommodation, including breakfast, from 8 July to 12 July in the Conrad Hotel in Istanbul. Arrangements will be also made for serving lunch and dinner.

The Government of Turkey does not provide the participants with the daily subsistence allowance (DSA). All services in the hotel (pay TV, international telephone calls, mini bar, room service, dry cleaning/laundry, etc.) are at the participants' own costs.

A Hospitality Desk will be set up at the Hotel to assist conference participants with check-in/check-out, as well as with registration.

TRAVEL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Government of Turkey will also cover air travel costs for three officials and a spouse of the head of delegation from each LDC:

1. Foreign Minister or a Minister in charge for the overall coordination of national implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries, with a spouse
2. Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York
3. National Focal Point for the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries

Ministers and their spouses as well as Permanent Representatives will be provided with business class roundtrip tickets and National Focal Points with full economy class round trip tickets.

All air tickets will be arranged either through the U.N. Resident Coordinator or through the American Express, who will contact the participants once their travel is authorized.

No travel can be undertaken without travel authorization and no changes can be made to the name or route once a ticket has been purchased.

Travel arrangements should be initiated by 15 May 2007 by completing and returning the Form for Participants (see annex I) to:

Ms. Gulin Dinc
Head of Department
General Directorate of International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Turkey
Fax: +90 312 292 27 55
E-mail: gdinc@mfa.gov.tr

Ms. Annie Concha
UN-OHRLS
United Nations HQ
New York, USA
Tel: +1 212 963 50 51
Fax: 1 917 367 34 15
E-mail: concha@un.org

Upon receipt of Form for Participants, the Turkish Government will issue individual invitation letters, which can be used for obtaining visas.

All participants are encouraged to make travel arrangements well in advance.

VISAS

Visas can be obtained in Consulates of the Republic of Turkey or in the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey also offers E-Consulate services at http://www.e-konsolosluk.net/Visa/Visa_Query.aspx

VACCINATIONS

There are no vaccination requirements for any international travellers. Detailed information on health concerns can be obtained from the World Health Organization Website: <http://www.who.int/ith/en/>

ARRIVAL

Participants will be met at the Istanbul International Ataturk Airport by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and escorted to the hospitality desk for the transportation to the Conrad Hotel.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The registration of participants of the Conference will take place upon arrival through a dedicated Registration Desk in the Conrad Hotel from 8.00 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, 8 July 2007.

Late arrivals can register from 8.30 to 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 9 July 2007, prior to the beginning of the conference.

Upon registering, participants will be provided with Conference materials and documentation.

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony will take place in the Hall of the Conrad Hotel at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 9 July 2007.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Government of the Republic of Turkey will host an official reception for the Conference participants on the evening of July 10.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The working languages of the conference are French and English.

Additional Information

Local Time is GMT + 2. Temperature in Istanbul in July is around 19-28 degrees Celsius.

The local currency is the Turkish Lira TRL. 1 USD = 1.42 TRL. 1 Euro = 1.88 TRL

Voltage: 220 V

Form for Participants

First Name	
Last Name	
Date of birth	
Place of birth	
Nationality	
Passport Details: Number Issued by Date of issuance Date of expiry	
Country of residence	
Gender	
Position/Official Title	
Institution/Organization	
Official Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail	

Itinerary details: Tentative dates and ports of departure, connection and return	
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Signature:

Note: Please complete the form and send it to Mr./Ms._____ in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey at his fax _____ or e-mail no later than____. A copy of the form must be also send to Ms. Annie Concha in the UN-OHRLLS at her fax 1 (917) 367 3415 or e-mail concha@un.org.