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# **Preparatory Process for the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs**

*Seminar for National Focal Points of LDCs  
2009*

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# Substantive Mandate of Conference

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- **The General Assembly decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs (A/63/227).**
- **Comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action on LDCs for 2001 – 2010.**
- **Identify effective international and domestic policies in light of outcome of appraisal.**
- **Reaffirm global commitment to address special needs of LDCs.**
- **Formulate and adopt renewed partnership between LDCs and development partners.**

# **UN System and International Organizations Mandate**

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- **UN-OHRLLS was designated as the focal point for preparation of the Conference.**
- **Active involvement and support of UN system organizations, UNDP, UNCTAD, Regional Commissions, UN specialized agencies, Funds and Programmes, BWI, and WTO, during the preparatory process.**
- **Involvement and support of Resident Coordinators and Country Teams in LDCs, for the country and regional-level preparations.**
- **Use of all existing coordination mechanisms of the UNSG.**

# Organizational Structure and Approach

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## Structure

- **Country-level preparations.**
- **Regional-level preparations.**
- **Global-level preparations.**

## Approach

- **Ensure broad-based participation and involvement of all stakeholders, including governments, the UN system, international organizations, and the civil society.**
- **Ensure ownership of the preparatory process by all stakeholders.**

# Global Level Preparations

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## Mandate

- Provide substantive preparations, including negotiation of outcome document for the Conference.
- Provide necessary organizational and logistical preparations for the Conference.

## Steps Needed

- Establishment of expert groups of key UN system and outside the UN system to consult on the outline and structure of the outcome document and methodology for appraisal.
- Preparation of the outcome document. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.
- Consultation with the host government on a host country agreement. LDCs Group decided to accept the offer of Turkey. Host country support throughout of the preparatory process at all levels both in substantive and organizational aspects.

# Regional Level Preparations

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## Importance and mandate

- Different regions have different priorities. Will bring regional perspectives into review process.
- Assessment of progress made in the attainment of goals in BPoA and MDGs at the regional level.
- Identification of problems, and potential solutions in the region.
- Formulation of specific policies and measures for enhancing regional integration of LDCs.

## Steps Needed

- Inform, mobilize and coordinate with the Regional Commissions, as they have the leading role.
- Preparation of regional reviews by the Regional Commissions.
- Two regional review meetings: Africa (+ Haiti), Asia and the Pacific (+ Yemen).

# Substantive and Thematic Preparations

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## Mandate

- The UN system and International Organizations were invited to provide necessary support and contribute to the preparatory process and the Conference.
- Organization of pre-conference events and thematic meetings is necessary to ensure substantive preparations and to facilitate intergovernmental preparations.

## Steps Needed

- IACG Meeting convened in March of 2009 and agreed upon a list of thematic/sectoral reviews, and pre-conference events.
- Agencies sponsoring events will take full responsibilities and ownership for their substantive, logistical, and financial aspects.
- The list of the pre-conference events are being consulted with the lead agencies. The list will be finalized and adopted at the second inter-agency meeting in Geneva later this year.

# Civil Society Preparations

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## Mandate

- Contributions of civil society actors to the Conference and its preparatory process and their active participation are emphasized.
- Partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector should be strengthened.

## Steps Needed

- Take necessary measures to ensure active involvement of the civil society from the preparatory process and the Conference.
- Brief civil society on the preparatory process.
- Prepare concept note on civil society events, and organize civil society pre-conference events.
- Mobilize the relevant parts of the UN system, including NGLS and DESA's NGO Section.

# Country Level Preparations

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## Importance

- **National ownership in designing and implementing development strategies is a major requirement for any effective framework for global partnership**

## Mandate

- **Assessment of the socio-economic developments, identification of gaps and obstacles in the implementation of the BPoA and description of country-specific needs.**
- **Formulation of additional policies and measures to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.**

## **Country Level Preparations (cont.)**

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### **Steps Needed**

- **Use of guidelines for country-level preparations.**
- **Active involvement and support of the UNDG, mobilize resident coordinators.**
- **Preparation of country-level reports.**
- **National governments should assume the responsibility and ownership for country level preparations with the involvement of other stakeholders, such as the civil society, the public and private sectors, and the academia.**

# National Reviews Framework

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- **Should be a results-orientated analytical report, appraising the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action against its objectives, goals and commitments.**
- **As such, national reports should be a comprehensive appraisal of progress in these seven areas of the BPoA against targets contained therein.**
- **The BPoA constitutes a framework for partnership in poverty eradication articulated around seven priorities: 1) fostering a people-centered policy framework, 2) good governance at national and international levels, 3) building human and institutional capacities, 4) building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs, 5) enhancing the role of trade in development, 6) reducing the vulnerability and protecting the environment, and 7) mobilizing financial resources.**
- **Country reports must be concise and succinct at 20-25 pages, yet informative.**

# Country Report Coordination

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- **These reports will be considered at the regional review meeting in the context of country/sub-region specific round tables that will be organized during the regional review meetings.**
- **LDCs delegates will have the opportunity to present their national reports at the regional review meetings.**
- **Country reports will be compiled and circulated as conference documents at the Global Conference.**
- **The country reports will serve as a basis for formulating outcomes of the regional review meetings, and both, country and regional reports will serve as important contributions to the outcome of the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs.**
- **In this regard, it is important that each country submits its national reports to the Conference Secretariat by January 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, in time for the convening of regional review meetings. Failure to submit reports on time will result in forfeiting the opportunity of presenting the reports at regional reviews.**

# Outline for the Report

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- **Should include an introduction followed by the national development planning process, including key economic, political and environmental trends and developments impacting the implementation of the BPoA.**
- **Also, an assessment of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the commitments of the PoA for LDCs for the decade 2001-2010, beginning with overall progress made against the targets of the BPoA to attain a GDP growth rate of at least 7% per annum and to increase the ratio of investment to GDP to 25% per annum.**
- **These sections should further review the extent to which national policies of LDCs and external support measures fulfilled the following priorities (which are set out in paragraph 7 of the Programme).**

# Outline for the Report (cont.)

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## **Priorities:**

- 1) A significant reduction in extreme poverty.**
  - 2) Developing human and institutional resources to support sustained growth and sustainable development.**
  - 3) Removing supply-side constraints and enhancing productive capacity, promoting the expansion of domestic markets to accelerate growth, income and employment generation.**
  - 4) Accelerating LDCs growth with the aim of enhancing LDCs' share in the world trade and global financial investment flows.**
  - 5) Environmental protection, accepting that LDCs and industrialized countries have common but differentiated responsibilities.**
  - 6) Attaining food security and malnutrition.**
- Based on the analysis related to these core objectives of the Programme, the report should identify critical accomplishments and outstanding challenges in each BPoA Commitment.**

# Substantive Issues

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- **Necessity of addressing the emerging challenges, such as the marked deterioration in LDCs' immediate economic situation and in their development prospects, due to the global economic crisis.**
- **Although LDCs' banks are less integrated into the international financial system, especially in the private sector's capital and bond markets, most LDCs use trade finance, which has been extensively affected by the crisis.**
- **According to estimations of the IMF (2009), world trade volume will decline by 11% in 2009, and there is an expected decline in demand for energy and raw materials, which will impact LDCs' trade performance.**
- **Reduced export earnings are leading to widening current account deficits, depletion of international reserves, currency depreciation, and reduction of economic growth.**

## Substantive Issues (cont.)

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- **ODA remains to be imperative that all relevant stakeholders continue to ensure the implementation of the BPoA, and work towards achieving MDGs targets. National reports should highlight their needs for the external assistance**
- **In light of global economic events, enhancing the LDCs' share in world trade and global financial investment flows should be a priority.**
- **The World Bank estimates that due to the economic slowdown, extreme poverty will be 55-90 million more than expected before the crisis. Poverty reduction efforts should be at the heart of the report. Social safety network.**

## **Substantive Issues (cont.)**

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- **Sharp movements in food prices persist in today's global economy and the dire effects on LDCs should reinforce the objectives of food security and malnutrition for the renewed PoA.**
- **Since most LDCs are especially vulnerable to climate change, because of their geographic location and their economic reliance on agriculture, policies towards LDCs' climate change resiliency and adaptation be ensured.**
- **Funding and technology transfer, with the assistance of development partners, will help in the adaptation to climate change.**

# Issues on the way forward in Nat reports

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- **Country reports should draw on lessons learnt and best practices to shed light on national priorities for sustainable development and poverty eradication over the next 10 years.**
- **Reports should also identify concrete actions and measures to be taken by national development stakeholders and development partners at the national, regional and global levels.**
- **Reports should provide recommendations on priority areas of action that the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs should address to support and facilitate sustainable development and poverty eradication at the national level.**