

Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

(Background Paper)

Timing and venue. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 59/244 and 60/228, the high-level meeting on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (hereafter referred to as "Programme") will be held on 19 and 20 September 2006 in New York, at the 61st session of the General Assembly. It will be preceded by a three day preparatory meeting of experts, preferably on 4, 5 and 6 September 2006 in New York.

Contents of the review. In accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 57/270B - "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields" - adopted by the General Assembly on 23 June 2003, the comprehensive review of the Programme will focus on **implementation**. It will

- assess progress in the implementation of the Programme;
- provide an occasion to reaffirm agreed goals and objectives of the Programme;
- identify existing obstacles and constraints, as well as measures to overcome them and to further the implementation of the Programme;
- identify best practices and lessons learned;
- identify new challenges and emerging issues;
- provide an opportunity to renew the commitment of the LDCs and their development partners to the Programme.

Preparatory process. To ensure a successful outcome, the preparatory process will include national, regional and sectoral reviews by LDCs, UN system and other multilateral organizations. One day informal interactive hearings with the representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector organized by the President of the General Assembly in New York will also be part of the preparatory process.

Inputs to the review. The comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs will serve as the major input for the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review. Outcomes of the national, regional and sectoral reviews, as well as of the interactive dialogue with non-

governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector will provide additional inputs.

Role of the LDCs: They will undertake national reviews in an open, transparent and participatory manner and provide inputs to the comprehensive review at the regional and global levels.

Role of the UN-OHRLLS. The UN-OHRLLS, in accordance with its mandate, will take a lead role in the coordination of the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action.

Role of UN RCs. The RCs are indispensable in assisting the LDCs to carry out their national reviews and preparing their inputs to the comprehensive review at the regional and global levels.

Role of UN Regional Commissions. UN Regional Commissions are encouraged to facilitate regional reviews of the implementation of the Programme by the LDCs and provide inputs to the comprehensive review at the global level.

Role of UN system organizations. UN system organizations are encouraged to undertake sectoral reviews of the implementation of the Programme by their governing bodies and provide inputs to the comprehensive review at the global level.