

ISTANBUL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Ceylan Intercontinental Istanbul

Tuesday 10 May 2011, 9.00 – 18.00



Istanbul Trade and Development Symposium on LDCs

UNLDC IV: Implementation Challenges and Follow-up Actions

Ceylan Intercontinental Istanbul

Asker Ocagi Cad No.1, 34435 Taksim, Istanbul

Tuesday 10 May 2011

9.00 – 18.00

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), OECD Development Centre (DEV), Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Bangladesh, Commonwealth Secretariat (CS), and the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) are convening the Istanbul Trade and Development Symposium on LDCs in conjunction with the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC IV). Open to the public, the Symposium will bring together policy makers and experts from international organizations, civil society, private sector, and academia to identify innovative strategies for tackling the implementation challenges of the UNLDCIV outcome towards structural transformation in LDCs.

**confirming*

9.00-10.30 Panel 1: Implementation and monitoring of the UNLDC IV Outcome

While the articulation of a fresh and innovative partnership agreement between the LDCs and their development partners for the Istanbul Conference remains a challenge, the designing of its delivery mechanism will be of decisive importance. This is particularly so, as one of the critical fault lines of the Brussels Programme of Actions (BPoA) had been its weak implementation and monitoring mechanism. The follow-up process of the implementation of the BPoA was couched in the formalism of procedures and practices, and this modality became dysfunctional due a serious lack of relevant real time information on delivery of the targets. Thus, in order to have a really meaningful outcome at the UNLDC IV, the new programme needs to have not only a strong strategic focus, but should contain identified delivery tools for specific targets, provisions of necessary financial and other resources, and a strengthened institutional mechanism for effective follow-up. Admittedly, without demonstrated political will on the part of all concerned parties towards implementation of the UNLDC IV outcome, it will be almost impossible to deliver any of the agreed targets to be agreed at Istanbul.

Chair: Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD
Panelists: Ali Babacan, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister, Turkey*
Minister of Nepal
Hon. Abual Mal Abdul Muhith, Minister of Finance, Bangladesh
Hon. Ana Dias Lourenço, Minister of Planning, Angola*
Hon. Sam Kuteesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uganda *
Hon. Habib Ouane, Minister of Energy, Mali*
Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative, UN-OHRLSS*
Louis Michel, Member of the LDC Eminent Persons Group
Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 Panel 2: Enhancing trade capacities in LDCs

The purpose of this theme is to explore the Istanbul Plan of Action proposals for enhancing the trade performance of the LDCs, and to evaluate what implementation and monitoring measures would best ensure a positive outcome of the UN LDC IV. Issues such as the granting of universal preferential, secured and predictable market access conditions for all LDCs, including full duty-free, quota-free market access in developed countries and emerging economies, and the reforming of preferential rules of origin and non-tariff measures, will be addressed. Participants will also look at measures to enhance the export and market diversification of LDCs and support structural changes within their economies, including Aid for Trade (Aft).

Chair: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD
Panelists: Pascal Lamy, Director General, WTO
Hon. Timothy Thahane, Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Lesotho *
Ümit Boyner, Chair, TUSIAD*
Hoseana Bohela Lunogelo, Executive Director, ESRF
Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD

12.30-14.00 Brown-bag Lunch and Lecture

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14.30-16.00 Panel 3: Strengthening LDCs and emerging economies' partnership

This session will look at the UN LDC IV recommendations and follow-up measures in the domain of South-South cooperation which has emerged in the past decades as a result of a massive shift in wealth globally. In particular, participants will address the effectiveness of South-South trade and technology transfer, the importance of capacity-building, and how aid and trade-related development assistance may support regional cooperation and the dynamics of economic and political integration. Discussions will also consider domestic policies and reforms, which should act as a catalyst for enhancing structural transformation, thereby achieving sustainable development goals and alleviating poverty.

Chair: Cyrus Rustomjee, Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat

Panelists: Mehmet Yilmaz, President a.i., TIKA*
H.E. Sorasak Pan, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia
Hon. Vincent Karega, Minister of Infrastructure, Rwanda*
Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Foreign Minister, Brazil*
Ekrem Yener, Chief International Expansion Officer, Turkcell
Suchat Katima, Executive Director, Mekong Institute
George Mavrotas, Chief Economist, GDN
Helmut Reisen, Head of Research, OECD Development Centre

16.00-16.30 Coffee

16.30-18.00 Panel 4: Tackling structural vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience of LDCs to crisis

Economic vulnerability in LDCs has many structural causes like a narrow production base, dependence on few commodities as export, or transport constraints, just to mention a few. In particular, vulnerability related to LDC reliance on agriculture, fisheries and tourism is in turn highly correlated with the environment and climate changes. Other aspects of LDC vulnerability include institutional weakness, political fragility related to governance or post-conflict state or the lack of human capacity. Finally, the volatility of food prices and the global economic crisis have risen to prominence in recent years, posing serious challenges for the sustainable development prospects of the LDCs. Indeed, these issues have significant ramifications for economic outcomes, for example concerning trade or migration, and discussions over these themes will seek to chart a course forward to address the specific challenges faced by the LDCs.

Chair: Can Paker, Chairperson, TESEV

Panelists: Sir Richard Jolly, Member of the LDC Eminent Persons Group
Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary General, UNCTAD
EU Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner for Development
Patrick Gulliaumont, President, FERDI
Michele Klein Solomon, Permanent Observer to the UN, IOM
Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, SAWTEE*
Hon. William Haomae, Minister of Foreign Affairs & External Trade, Solomon Islands*
Ana Luiza Cortez, Chief, Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy, UNDESA*

Please note that the OECD Development Centre will also hold:

OECD Development Centre Special Event

11 May 2011 18.00-20.00

Hamidiye Hall, Istanbul Congress Centre

What the Global Shift in Wealth means for the Development of LDCs

At the beginning of a new decade, it is important to acknowledge a profound transformation of the global economy. "Shifting Wealth" – a macro-economic process started in the 1990s and accelerating in the 2000s has led to a new geography of global growth. In 2010, while many OECD countries continued to struggle with consequences of the economic and financial crisis, more than 90% of global growth came from emerging and developing countries. Cooperation between emerging and developing countries has been rising, on a number of levels, including through trade and foreign investment.

What are key policy priorities for harnessing the opportunities, and meeting the challenges that today's global economy creates for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)' development? And what are the appropriate coordination frameworks? Following an initial analysis of current trends and their implications, leading figures from LDCs, emerging economies and international institutions will share and discuss their perspectives on these developments.

Tentative agenda:

Chaired by Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre

High level Panel:

- Zafer Çağlayan, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Turkey*
- Donald Kaberuka, President, African Development Bank*
- Minister from African LDC (Senegal, Benin or Rwanda)
- Minister from partner country (Brazil, China or India)
- Karel de Gucht, EU Commissioner for Trade*

Closing by the UNDP