



Wilton Park

Concept note

The Post-2015 Development Framework: Priorities for the Least Developed Countries

Wednesday 29 – Friday 31 January 2014 | WP1309

Sponsors

The following organisations have worked together to shape the agenda for this event. It is part of a longer-term collaboration aimed at ensuring a strong voice for LDCs in the post-2015 political process and its follow-up:

- **The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** is an independent policy research organisation based in the UK. IIED focuses on the challenge of integrating environmental concerns into economic and social policy and practice. IIED is a member of the Independent Research Forum 2015, an alliance of think tanks from all regions committed to supporting a strong set of commitments and framework for action from the 2015 process. IIED has convened a high-level LDC Independent Expert Group on Post-2015, chaired by the former Prime Minister of Haiti Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis. This Group will be actively involved in the Wilton Park conference.
- **The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)** is charged with assisting the United Nations Secretary-General to undertake global follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including analytical activities on the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme in order to substantively backstop its follow up. Furthermore OHRLLS provides support to the LDC group with respect to their participation in the debates about the Post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Wilton Park** organises over fifty events a year in the UK and overseas, bringing together leading representatives from the worlds of politics, diplomacy, academia, business, civil society, the military and the media. Focusing on issues of international security, prosperity and justice. Their meetings provide a neutral environment where conflicting views can be expressed and debated openly and calmly, allowing acceptable compromise and resolution to be achieved.

Context and aims

The event will consider what development framework the world needs for the challenges to be faced in the coming decades from the standpoint of the LDCs. It will explore how the priorities of the LDCs – including those expressed in the Istanbul Programme of Action – can be integrated in the SDGs and the post 2015 development agenda. Discussion will focus on poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, structural transformation and building of resilience in LDCs. Institutional issues and means of implementation will also be on the agenda.

Least developed countries (LDCs) have most at stake as the world builds a post-2015 development agenda. They suffer unacceptable deprivation, and many are 'behind the curve' on progress to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The acute structural vulnerability of these countries is exacerbated by the disproportionate impact of economic and environmental shocks. The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs focuses on productive capacity building in the LDCs, which is closely related to sustainable

development in these countries.

At the same time, LDCs have much to contribute to a global response to emerging development trends and priorities, and to managing globally important resources such as oceans, forests, grasslands and other fragile ecosystems. They are ready, and have the potential, to take a lead in debates and negotiations about a new global partnership. But they need support, solidarity and action from other countries.

Proposed themes for discussion

The United Nations is overseeing a process through which all countries will agree a new set of development goals to come into effect at the end of 2015. These will replace the current Millennium Development Goals, and articulate a new shared set of aspirations that can act as a point of reference for global, regional, national and local actions to tackle basic deprivation and improve quality of life for all. The UN General Assembly agreed in September 2013 to a political process to negotiate a new set of international commitments which integrate poverty eradication and sustainable development:

...working towards a single framework and set of Goals - universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities. It should also promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all¹

The Wilton Park event in January 2014 will bring together a key set of actors with responsibilities for making the new development agenda work, and with expertise that should inform the way the post-2015 agreement is shaped. The meeting will come at a key point in the political process leading to agreement of a new set of Goals, and can play a significant role in shaping the ideas and options to be taken forward over the following months.

Participation

The Conference will be an invitation-only event for a maximum of 60-70 people, to enable full interaction between key individuals. Those to be invited will include:

- Senior representatives from New York missions with direct involvement in the political process – from both LDCs and the 'friends of LDCs' group
- Senior representatives from governments, particularly in LDCs
- LDC issue experts with relevant areas of focus for the event agenda
- Private sector and civil society representatives

Format and venue

The event structure will promote interaction between participants, to build better common understanding. Key speakers will explain the political process and the current state of the dialogue on the post 2015 development agenda, as well as the major issues mentioned above. Specific case studies and examples will be presented to illustrate and inform the discussion.

Enquiries about the programme and general enquiries to:

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¹ UNGA Special Event Outcome Document, available online [here](#)