



Programme

The post-2015 development framework: priorities for the least developed countries

Wednesday 29 – Friday 31 January 2014 | WP1309

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 (IPOA) 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.

Background: 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 aim to build on the achievements of 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 single post-2015 development agenda that:

“should reinforce the international community’s commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We underscore the central imperative of poverty eradication and are committed to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency. Recognising the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and promotion of sustainable development, we underline the need for a coherent approach which integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. This coherent approach involves 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”

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

The event 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.

In association with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS), [with support from the UK Department for International Development and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs].

Wednesday 29 January

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500-1515

Welcome and introduction

Roger Williamson – conference chair

Visiting Programme Director, Wilton Park, United Kingdom

1515-1645

1. LDCs and the post-2015 agenda

Gyan Acharya

Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, United Nations

Jules-Amand Aniambossou

Ambassador, Benin Embassy to France and the United Kingdom, Benin

Camilla Toulmin

Director, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. A new framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development

The session will consider what development framework is needed for the challenges we expect the world to face in the coming decades and what we can learn from experience over the past 20 years. The new goals will be universal in scope and require new ambitions in all countries: what does this mean for LDCs?

Debapriya Bhattacharya

Former Bangladesh Ambassador to World Trade Organisation and United Nations Offices of Geneva and Vienna; Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

Andrew Shepherd

Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom

Rosebell Kagumire

Co-ordinator, Africans Act for Africa, Uganda

1900-1915

3. The long view - development strategy - building on achievements

Richard Jolly

Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's high level panel on LDCs; United Nations Intellectual History Project; Honorary Professor, Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom

1930

Drinks reception followed by conference dinner

Thursday 30 January

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-0945

4. How can LDCs achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth?

Overview of key economic drivers and constraints facing LDCs and opportunities to shape future trends. The presentation will provide context for sessions 5 and 6.

Willem van der Geest

Chief Development Strategy and Policy Analysis Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

0945-1100

5. Employment and job creation

A key challenge for many LDCs is the need for secure, rewarding and productive jobs that meet demand from young people and help build inclusive and sustained economic growth. How can productive capacity be increased and what is the future for the informal economy, which currently provides the majority of employment in many LDCs?

Aurelio Parisotto

Senior Economist, Multilateral Cooperation Department, International Labour Organisation

Chime P. Wangdi

Secretary General, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1245

6. Agriculture and natural resource sectors as key drivers of change

Development of an effective agricultural sector is of critical importance for many LDCs and ensuring secure and significant returns on investment in natural resource assets is the main route to increased prosperity in many contexts. Food security and growth of export markets are key targets – but many of the main factors are outside the control of LDCs themselves and determined by international trade and investment regimes. How can a new development model empower LDCs to shape the sector so that it better meets key needs and aspirations?

Mariteuw Chimère Diaw

Director General, African Model Forest Network, Cameroon

Dipak Gyawali

Chair, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Nepal

1300-1430

Lunch

1500-1630

7. Climate change and development

Impacts of climate variability are already impacting the poorest countries and people. Projections are that this will increase significantly in coming decades and threatens to wipe out potential for improved wellbeing and prosperity for many countries. How can LDCs address these challenges while achieving progress in improving the lives and prospects for their people? The next major climate 'summit' happens in 2015 – how do the LDCs see the post-2015 development agenda fitting with this summit and what should the post-2015 framework reflect with respect to climate change issues?

Pa Ousman Jarju

Special Envoy on Climate Change of the Gambia

Saleemul Huq

Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Bangladesh

Makurita Baaro

Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Kiribati Mission to the United Nations

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

8. Achieving gender equity

The majority of those living in extreme poverty are female. What are the key barriers to empowerment and opportunity for women in LDCs and how can these best be overcome? What practical steps can be taken to achieve equal access to water and sanitation; land ownership; financial services; water and sanitation; and a broad range of other essential components of security and wellbeing?

Farah Kabir

Director, ActionAid, Bangladesh

Emily Esplen

GENDERNET Secretariat, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD/DAC

Paul Larsen

Project Manager Post-2015 Policy & Coordination, Department for United Nations Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

1900

Drinks reception followed by conference dinner

Friday 31 January

0800-0845

Breakfast and check out

0900-0940

**9. Good governance at all levels in the context of post-2015 agenda
panel discussion**

The IPOA highlights good governance, the rule of law, the protection and promotion of human rights, and democratic participation, as well as strengthened voice and participation of LDCs in international decision-making and policy coherence in international financial, trade and development institutions, processes and mechanisms. These are also among the themes in the post-2015 discussions. How do LDCs want the post-2015 framework to address these issues?

Richard Morgan

Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (Post-2015 Agenda), UNICEF

David Hallam

UK Envoy on the Post-2015 Goals, Department of International Development, United Kingdom

Youba Sokona

Special Advisor on Sustainable Development, The South Centre, Switzerland

0940-1020

10. What institutions, means of implementation, accountability mechanisms and tools to assess progress are needed to ensure the goals are on track?**Panel discussion**

The global goals will have limited impact unless they are matched with strong ownership in each country, a robust means of implementation with sound accountability mechanism, an

effective institutional framework to promote change and an appropriate means to measure real progress. What are the opportunities and requirements in realising these aims?

Kitty van der Heijden

Director Europe, World Resources Institute, Netherlands

Finn Tarp

Director, United Nations University, World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Finland

1020-1045

Tea/coffee

1045-1145

11. Governance and institutions

Break-out groups: Session details to be announced

1145-1315

12. Summing up and conclusions

Report back from breakout groups, key ideas addresses and next steps.

Heidi Schroderus-Fox

Director, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), United Nations

Essam Yassin Mohammed – conference rapporteur

Researcher, Sustainable Markets Group, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), United Kingdom

Roger Williamson – conference chair

Visiting Programme Director, Wilton Park, United Kingdom

1315-1400

Lunch

1400

Participants depart