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**AD HOC EXPERT MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE MID-TERM REVIEW  
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001–2010**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
from 29–30 May 2006

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**UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/10**

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## I. CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

1. The Ad Hoc Expert Meeting took place in Geneva on 29 and 30 May 2006. Discussions focused on the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action over the past five years. There was an extensive exchange of views on the basis of selected country case studies with presentations by national consultants from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Nepal and Uganda, as well as invited representatives from Benin, Rwanda, Samoa and Vanuatu. In concluding its deliberations, the Expert Meeting unanimously adopted the Chairpersons' summary and requested Benin, in its capacity as a coordinator of the LDCs' group, to transmit the outcome to the Ministerial Meeting of LDCs in Cotonou, Benin, from 5 to 8 June 2006.

2. The meeting underscored the importance of the shared responsibility of least developed countries (LDCs) and their development partners in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. The country presentations highlighted the difficulties in assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Besides the statistical limitations prevalent in most LDCs, a major cause of the difficulties in the assessment of progress was the loose conceptual and factual relationship between the socio-economic goals pursued (such as poverty reduction) and the action envisaged under the various commitments in the Programme of Action. Ideally, there would be a need to establish in each LDC a quantitative and qualitative monitoring framework based on the country-specific causality between Programme of Action commitments and the development objectives pursued. It is doubtful, from the discussions held, whether LDC governments will wish to develop such a framework as most of them already have to cope with problems of congestion as beneficiaries of various international initiatives. The work undertaken by UNCTAD under this project revealed a lack of awareness in LDCs of the Programme of Action as a tool for international cooperation, as well as the value and implications of LDC status as a basis for targeted international action.

3. The Ad Hoc Expert Meeting provided an opportunity to: (i) reflect on the progress made towards the development objectives of the Programme of Action; and (ii) draw policy-related lessons from the first half-way point of the decade of the implementation of the Programme of Action, with a view to delineating the most desirable approach to the continued implementation of the Programme of Action.

### **Assessment of progress toward fulfilling the Programme of Action's goals**

4. Several LDCs have made significant progress over the last five years towards achieving the 7 per cent growth target, but only a few have managed to reduce the proportion of their people living in extreme poverty. The latter progress was observed mainly in urban areas, while rural areas tend to experience higher levels of poverty. Given the vulnerability of most LDCs to the risk of frequent external shocks beyond domestic control, and considering the structural disadvantages with which their economies are faced, the durability of LDCs' growth performance is questionable. Therefore, the challenge of poverty reduction remains immense and will require special efforts by the LDCs and their development partners.

5. The prospects for reducing extreme poverty by half among LDCs by 2015 are poor. In some of these countries, the poverty trap is maintained by the conjunction of geographical handicaps that are major causes of supply constraints, as well as a combination of national

and international factors such as HIV/AIDS, civil conflicts, exposure to natural hazards, lack of domestic financial resources and skilled human resources, lack of investment, declining terms of trade and prolonged indebtedness. LDCs in such situations have little or no scope for seizing the numerous economic opportunities that result from globalization.

6. With regard to human development targets (under the Programme of Action and in the light of the Millennium Development Goals), some LDCs have made concrete progress in some areas, notably in reducing child mortality and improving access to safe water, as well as in introducing universal primary education and promoting adult literacy, although the quality of education remains a concern. There has also been some progress in reducing gender disparities. However, maternal and child malnutrition remains high in LDCs, where the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is still far below the 50 per cent target. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases continues to defeat the goal of human development progress in a number of LDCs.

7. As regards governance, few LDCs have free and fair elections; similarly, few have made improvements in the area of human rights and freedom of expression, few have multiparty politics, and few have carried out political or economic decentralization. Some of the country studies highlighted corruption as a serious obstacle to socio-economic progress. The meeting underlined good governance at national and international levels as sources of significant benefits for all peoples.

8. Most LDCs have pursued wide-ranging economic reforms and adjustment programmes, notably aimed at trade liberalization, over the past two decades. However, their share of world trade remains marginal, accounting for an average of 0.5 per cent of world exports and 0.7 per cent of world imports in 2000–2003. It was generally recognized throughout the discussions that in order to facilitate poverty reduction, trade liberalization has to be gradual and essentially linked to the development of supply capacities. This implies revisiting the role of the State in dealing with domestic economic issues, given the importance of offering private operators a favourable investment climate and a sound macroeconomic environment.

9. Progress has been made towards improving preferential market access conditions for LDCs since the adoption of the Programme of Action. The meeting welcomed the decision on duty- and quota-free market access for LDCs contained in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (Hong Kong, China, December 2005), which puts these preferential market access conditions on a more predictable basis for all products. Further improvements regarding rules of origin, as well as a reduction of non-tariff barriers, could allow LDCs to better utilize new trading opportunities.

10. The LDCs are currently attracting greater inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) than in the past. FDI in those countries, however, was equivalent to less than 2 per cent of world FDI in 2004. Inflows are largely concentrated in natural-resource-rich LDCs: half of the increase in FDI inflows into all LDCs between 2002 and 2004 took place in four oil-exporting LDCs. If the mineral-exporting LDCs were added to the oil-exporting LDCs, the combined set of countries would account for 70 per cent of total FDI inflows into LDCs. Further efforts are required in order to ensure that FDI in LDCs genuinely contributes to economic welfare and development through backward and forward linkages in recipient countries.

11. With regard to international support measures in favour of LDCs, eight OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries met the Programme of Action target of making official development assistance (ODA) disbursements equivalent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income (GNI) in 2003 and 2004. Another country reached 0.18 per cent, and another one the 0.15 per cent target in 2004. It is encouraging to note that net real-term ODA disbursements from DAC members to LDCs almost doubled in 2004, as compared with 2001. Moreover, the untying of aid to LDCs has been proceeding apace, and there seems to be a consensus that this process has contributed to the effectiveness of aid.

12. Out of the 30 LDCs that are potentially eligible to receive debt relief under the HIPC Initiative, 22 of them have reached decision point. However, despite this and other initiatives to alleviate the debt burden of LDCs, external debt remains a major problem for most of these countries. Further debt reduction efforts are deemed essential to the objective of poverty reduction. Financing the development of supply-side capacities remains a problem in highly-indebted poor countries (HIPCs) that have reached completion point as their access to loans is limited. This problem needs to be addressed with urgency.

### **Policy lessons and implications for the further implementation of the Programme of Action**

13. While economic growth is generally considered to be important for the achievement of poverty reduction objectives, the quality of growth, notably with regard to employment creation, reduction of inequalities and preservation of the natural environment, is of paramount importance for a broad-based development process.

14. The case studies revealed an overload in most LDCs, as governments strive to implement different international frameworks of cooperation in parallel with their national development policies and strategies. The objectives and priorities of the various frameworks are often viewed as competing with — and not complementing — each other. Most LDCs had structural adjustment programmes in the 1980s and the 1990s, and several of these countries are now supported in the light of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). There are also frameworks and coordination mechanisms at the country level, including: the Common Country Assessment Framework (CCAF); the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF); the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to LDCs (IF); and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for African and Selected Least Developed Countries (JITAP). Combined with national development policies and sectoral strategies, these have often resulted in institutional bottlenecks, in which the LDC agenda tends to receive relatively low-priority attention. The meeting stressed the urgent necessity to coordinate the different initiatives at the country and international level. This calls for better ownership, within LDCs, of development policies and strategies.

15. The PRSP process was introduced in the context of the Enhanced HIPC Initiative in order to ensure that savings from debt relief are channelled towards poverty reduction programmes. There was a general impression that trade is not sufficiently integrated within PRSPs, although trade issues now occupy a more central place in them. The problem is how trade is dealt with in PRSPs: strategic goals are only loosely related to public action. Furthermore, PRSPs do not have a methodology for linking trade with growth and poverty reduction.

16. Alleviating poverty through direct action on social sectors is regarded as important. However, the primacy of enhancing productive capacities as an avenue for durable poverty reduction is increasingly recognized as paramount. This implies maintaining or improving the international competitiveness of traditional economic sectors (notably agriculture, which remains the economic pillar of most LDCs), and promoting durable economic diversification. Diversification not only broadens the scope for employment creation, but also increases a country's economic resilience to external shocks beyond domestic control, thereby making income more stable and predictable. International support measures should therefore put greater emphasis on developing productive capacities in the LDCs.

17. At the national level, development strategies should always place the development of physical infrastructure and human resources at the heart of priorities, in view of the catalytic impact of these two areas of action on the scope for durable diversification. Development partners are invited to enhance their support to LDCs so as to develop agricultural productivity and remove infrastructural bottlenecks in those countries.

18. Given the adverse impact of the recent oil shocks among LDCs, particularly in the light of poverty trends, there should be greater efforts to develop renewable energy sources, including through exchanges of experience and South–South cooperation.

19. It is widely agreed that new economic opportunities exist for LDCs, notably in areas of specialization that rely on valuable assets such as environmental beauty and cultural wealth, including traditional knowledge. Economic specialization in such sectors as organic agriculture, international tourism and cultural industries is often regarded as desirable progress, involving meaningful economic linkages. Such developments call for targeted efforts in the context of which maximum use ought to be made of the range of concessions already available to LDCs.

20. At the international level, the fact that a country is recognized by the United Nations as an LDC should always imply maximum consideration for it within the existing framework of special international measures, regardless of whether these measures are granted by virtue of LDC status (special and differential treatment, Integrated Framework, etc.), or under initiatives outside the scope of LDC treatment (e.g. debt relief for HIPC). Revisiting the nature of rules of origin in relation to trade preferences and increasing the capacity of LDCs to meet international standards that constitute non-tariff barriers, stand out as one of the most important lessons acquired from the experiences of many LDCs. Making the best possible use of the existing concessions in favour of LDCs in the multilateral trading system and creating a favourable investment climate in those countries are regarded as vitally important, as are efforts to identify new potential economic opportunities in the light of evolving international demands. Coherence between international obligations and the national constraints faced by LDCs should always be aimed at in the framework of international cooperation.

21. Supply-side strategy based on sound economic specialization may imply preserving or restoring the competitiveness of traditional sectors, as well as paving the way for the development of dynamic new sectors of goods or services. To that end, LDCs should make the best possible use of the flexibility of international trade rules, including special measures such as safeguards and other remedial measures.

22. In the framework of international support to LDCs, there should be a rebalancing of priorities between human development targets and production-related issues, with greater

emphasis on the latter. This implies greater efforts, in the context of aid, aimed at physical infrastructure and technological development, as these two factors are important catalysts of productivity progress and competitiveness. To improve the transport and communication infrastructure of LDCs, public investment remains essential, despite the growing importance of private sector involvement.

23. A new approach to aid policies is highly desirable if LDCs are to achieve greater ownership of public expenditure. This implies adherence to the internationally adopted Declarations of Rome (2003) and Paris (2005) on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability, which are increasingly regarded as important factors for the legitimacy of national development plans.

24. In view of the serious statistical deficiencies prevalent in most LDCs and the importance of steady and reliable statistical data for proper monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, there is an urgent need for international initiatives aimed at enhancing national capacities in this area.

25. In the light of the economic importance to a number of LDCs of remittances from nationals living and working abroad, there is a need for greater and coordinated efforts by the international community to promote channels, mechanisms and international policies to reduce the transaction costs that hamper the use of remittances as a source of development financing in relevant countries. Intensifying or redirecting remittances towards productive investment schemes is a desirable policy objective, for which international support to LDCs should be organized.

26. The Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to LDCs (IF) is recognized as a key instrument to strengthen the institutional capacities of LDCs with a view to enhancing their productive potential. The most important lesson learned from the IF process is that strong country ownership is critical to the success of the IF, which is an important part of the broader Aid for Trade initiative in the context of the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda.

27. The concerns of countries that are called to prepare for eventual graduation from LDC status should also be taken into consideration, in keeping with the principle of "smooth transition", which has been accepted by the General Assembly. This implies a commitment by development partners to do justice to the permanent or long-term needs that a graduating country may continue to be facing, in view of the risk of frequent economic, environmental or natural shocks beyond domestic control. There is also a growing concern about the need to pay greater attention to the economic vulnerability of some LDCs that are expected to graduate in the near future. It is hoped that environmental and disaster-related vulnerabilities will be given due consideration in the discussions on graduation, as well as support for "smooth transition".

## **II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **A. Convening of the Ad Hoc Expert Meeting**

28. The Ad Hoc Expert Meeting was convened on 29-30 May 2006 in preparation for the Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010. The deliberations, discussions and outcomes of this meeting will provide a substantive contribution from UNCTAD to the global Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action for LDCs to be held in New York in September 2006. The Expert Meeting was jointly chaired by H. E. Ambassador Doris Bertrand of Austria and Mr. Fredrik Arthur of Norway.

### **B. Organization of work**

29. The Chairperson declared the Expert Meeting open and asked participants to be punctual in order to make optimum use of the conference facilities and the time allocated for deliberations. The Chairperson emphasized that the principal objective of the two-day meeting was to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs, and to make a qualitative assessment of where the LDCs and their development partners currently stand with regard to the implementation of their respective commitments and agreed targets. The discussions held during the Expert Meeting provided an opportunity to consider policies and strategies for the implementation of the Programme of Action during the remaining five years.

### **C. Documentation**

30. Case studies, which were sponsored by UNCTAD and supported financially by the Government of Austria, and undertaken by national consultants, were presented to the Expert Meeting. The case studies covered Bangladesh (UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/4); Burkina Faso (UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/7); Cape Verde (UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/6); Ethiopia (UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/5); Nepal (UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/3); and Uganda (UNCTAD/LDC/MISC/2006/8.Rev.1.); a preliminary synthesis of lessons learned from the case studies was also discussed. National reports from Benin, Rwanda, Samoa and Vanuatu also provided a basis for the deliberations of the Expert Meeting.

### **D. Summary of opening statements**

31. In his welcoming statement, Mr. Dirk Bruinsma, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, said that it was clear from the case studies that many LDCs continue to rely heavily on agricultural exports, while others have experienced a strengthening of their textile sector. The importance of services in the export specialization of LDCs has been increasing rapidly. Specifically, tourism-related growth in a few island LDCs has increased income levels to the point that they may eventually graduate. He also stressed the point that a comprehensive examination and review of the Programme of Action targets for the LDCs as a group is difficult due to the large amount of heterogeneity observed within countries. For example, although only a third of LDCs have achieved an investment ratio of at least 20 per cent of GDP, investment was found to be less capital-intensive and less impressive statistically, they have shown progress in terms of employment and economic growth.

32. Since 2001, the share of duty- and quota-free imports from LDCs has grown as a result of the implementation of several market access initiatives. The last to date was the

commitment made in Hong Kong (China) to provide market access to LDCs on “a lasting basis”. However, whether this will enhance market access for LDC exporters depends on the type of products that will benefit from this initiative. UNCTAD will continue to analyse various available ways which could help LDCs to take full advantage of the special consideration their status entails. UNCTAD will also sharpen its focus on enhancing productive capacities in LDCs, with particular reference to those economic sectors that are particularly important to them. Furthermore, as part of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities, the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to LDCs, is now reorganizing its focus toward direct advisory services to support implementation and training activities in recipient countries.

33. The Representative of Benin in Geneva speaking on behalf of the LDCs' group, said that LDCs faced the threat of being isolated with respect to other groups of countries and to lose the possibility to get out of the group. The implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) will enable LDCs to significantly improve the well-being of their people. The first objective of the PoA for the period 2001-2010 is to considerably reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty in order to halve poverty levels by 2015. LDCs should, throughout the decade 2001-2010, seek to meet the targets of maintaining an annual 7 per cent GDP growth rate and increase the investment GDP ratio to 25 per cent per annum. In light of the economic vulnerability of LDCs new additional aid flows are required to help them to reach the above targets.

34. The Representative of Benin also suggested that, in order to highlight the agreed goals, the final report of this meeting should be composed of two distinct parts: one on the activities carried out by LDCs, and the other on the activities carried out by the UN agencies and the donor community. Furthermore, the final report should be sent to the President of the General Assembly as a contribution by UNCTAD on the global examination of the PoA, which will be held in New York in September 2006.

### **E. Closing plenary**

35. The Chairperson announced that she had prepared a draft Chairman's Summary based on the discussions of the Expert Meeting. The Expert Meeting unanimously adopted the Chairperson's summary.



### III. BACKGROUND NOTE FOR THE AD HOC EXPERT MEETING

36. The UNCTAD Preparatory Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action for LDCs will be convened as part of the substantive contributions of UNCTAD to the global Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. The meeting will provide opportunities to: (a) exchange best practices and draw policy lessons from implementation experiences of selected least developed countries; (b) enhance dialogue between LDCs and their development partners on ways and means of improving the implementation of actions and commitments of the Programme of Action; (c) identify key development challenges facing these countries; and (d) put forward policy conclusions and recommendations aimed at assisting the further implementation of actions and commitments of the Programme of Action at the national and international levels. The objective of the Meeting is, therefore, to make a substantive and qualitative assessment of where the LDCs and their development partners currently stand in implementing their respective commitments and agreed targets as a contribution to the comprehensive global mid-term review of the Programme of Action.

37. The deliberations of the meeting will be based on specific national studies and country reports conducted in selected LDCs in the context of a project designed by UNCTAD and executed with the financial support of the Governments of Austria and Norway. In addition to its deliberations on the national studies and country reports resulting from the project, the meeting will benefit from a synthesis report providing comparative and preliminary analysis by UNCTAD of the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and their relationship with the Millennium Development Goals.

38. At the meeting, national experts will make presentations on their respective countries' experiences in implementing the Programme of Action, including identifying concrete results achieved so far and key remaining challenges, as well as drawing policy conclusions and recommendations. The national studies and the Preparatory Meeting are responses to the invitation of the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries to the organizations within the UN system and their executive bodies, and within their respective mandates, "to undertake sectoral appraisal of the Programme of Action at regular intervals and make available the outcomes of such appraisals to the global reviews" (paragraph 97). A substantive and qualitative assessment of where the LDCs and their development partners currently stand in implementing their respective commitments and agreed targets will provide a renewed opportunity to design policies and strategies for the implementation of the Programme of Action during the remaining five years. It could also assist in identifying broader policy lessons and measures that could be taken into account when enhancing the implementation of actions and commitments of the Programme of Action.

39. The national studies, the synthesis of lessons learned from the studies, policy conclusions and recommendations, as well as the outcome of the Meeting (in the form of a publication comprising a Chairman's summary and national case studies) will be made available to the Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 convened by the General Assembly. It will be recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/244, decided to hold a comprehensive Mid-term Review of the Programme of Action during its sixty-first session in 2006. At its fifty-second session, the Trade and Development Board also

encouraged the UNCTAD secretariat to actively contribute to the comprehensive mid-term review and its preparatory processes.

## IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK

### Day 1: Monday, 29 May 2006

#### *Opening plenary*

- 10:00 – 10:20      Remarks by the Chair on the organization of the meeting and expected outcome
- 10:20 – 10:30      Welcoming remarks by Mr. Dirk Bruinsma, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

#### *First informal meeting: Item 1 — Assessment and exchange of national experiences, lessons learned and key challenges faced in the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010*

- 10:30 – 10:50      Presentation by Mr. Habib Ouane, Director of the Special Programme for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS on progress made so far in attaining the goals and targets of the Programme of Action

#### *Presentation of country case studies by national consultants*

- 10:50 – 11:10      Case study of **Bangladesh** by Mrs. Nazneen Ahmed
- 11: 10 – 11:30      Case study of **Burkina Faso** by Mrs. Bere Lompo
- 11: 30 – 11:50      Case study of **Uganda** by Mr. Joseph Enyimu
- 11:50 – 12:10      Commentator: H.E. Ambassador Toufiqu Ali of Bangladesh
- 12:10 – 13:00      Discussions

*(Lunch break)*

#### *Second informal meeting: Presentation of country case studies by national consultants (cont'd)*

- 15:00 – 15:20      Case study of **Cape Verde** by Mr. Paulo Monteiro
- 15:20 – 15:40      Case study of **Ethiopia** by Mrs. Teigist Lemma
- 15:40 – 16:00      Case study of **Nepal** by Mr. Pushkar Bajrachary
- 16: 00 – 16:20      Country presentation of **Rwanda** by Mr. Robin Ogilvy
- 16:20 – 16:40      Commentator: H.E. Ambassador Samuel Amehou of Benin

16:40 – 17:30	Discussions
17:30 – 18:00	Chairman's summing-up

## Day 2: Tuesday, 30 May 2006

### *Third informal meeting: Country presentations*

10:00 – 10:20	Country presentation of <b>Samoa</b> by Ms. Perina Jacqueline Sila
10:20 – 11:00	Lessons from the sample of country case studies: presentation by Professor Colin Kirkpatrick via video-conference)
11:00 – 11:30	Comments and questions on presentation by Professor Kirkpatrick
11:40 – 12:00	Country presentation of <b>Benin</b> by Mr. Mathias Pofagi
12:00 – 12:20	Country presentation of <b>Vanuatu</b> by Mr. Roy Mickey Joy
12:20 – 13:00	Discussions and Chairperson's summing-up

*(Lunch break)*

### *Fourth informal meeting: Item 2 — Recommended options and strategies to enhance the implementation of actions and commitments of the Programme of Action, including identification of key lessons and challenges*

15:00 – 16:30	<p>What options and strategies are recommended for the following commitments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Commitment 4</b> ("<i>Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs</i>")</li> <li>• <b>Commitment 5</b> ("<i>Enhancing the role of trade in development</i>")</li> <li>• <b>Commitment 6</b> ("<i>Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment</i>")</li> <li>• <b>Commitment 7</b> ("<i>Mobilizing financial resources</i>")</li> </ul>
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### *Summary and conclusions*

16:30 – 17:00	Policy conclusions and recommendations in the form of a Chairman's summary
17:00 – 18:00	Closing plenary

## Annex

### ATTENDANCE\*

1. Representatives from the following States members attended the meeting:

Afghanistan	Holy See
Angola	Indonesia
Austria	Madagascar
Bangladesh	Mali
Belgium	Mauritania
Benin	Myanmar
Bhutan	Nepal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Norway
Burkina Faso	Philippines
Burundi	Poland
Cambodia	Portugal
Chad	Republic of Korea
Czech Republic	Rwanda
Djibouti	Samoa
El Salvador	Syrian Arab Republic
Ethiopia	Timor Leste
Finland	Uganda
France	Vanuatu
Haiti	Yemen

2. The following Observer attended the meeting:

Palestine

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation  
European Community

4. The following United Nations agencies was represented at the meeting:

Department of Social and Economic Affairs  
International Trade Center  
United Nations Development Programme

5. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented at the meeting:

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
World Intellectual Property Organization  
Universal Postal Union

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\* For the list of participants, see UNCTAD/LDC/INF/2006/9.

6. Specialized agency and related organization:

World Trade Organization

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

*General Category*

World Confederation of Labour

*Special Category*

International Ocean Institute

7. The following observer organization was represented at the meeting:

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

8. The following panellists were present at the meeting:

Ms. Nazneen Ahmed, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dakha, Bangladesh

Mr. Pushkar Bajracharya, Professor, Tribbhuvan University, Katmandu, Nepal

Ms. Teigist Lemma Dessalegn, Freelance consultant, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. Paulo Santos Monteiro, Jr., Freelance consultant, Cape Verde

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