SG's Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting

UNLDC IV: Key Development Challenges facing the LDCs

18-19 February 2010

ITU
Key Development Challenges Facing the LDC's

By

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The view expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
ITU
Least Developed Countries

Key Development Challenges facing the LDCs

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ITU’s Progress and Challenges

1. Science, technology and Innovation Policy (STI)

- The use of ICTs can increase economy, security, health and can reduce the vulnerability of the people.

- The ICT’s projects to reduce the digital divide in LDCs must take into consideration the National Reviews to concentrate in what really needs to be achieved.

- All governments need, as a first important step, to increase the visibility of their needs to improve and prioritize the investment of funds in new projects, integrating the human resources. This way we can ensure a return in social investment.
ITU’s Progress and Challenges

1. Science, technology and Innovation Policy (STI)

• We have to make sure that guidelines, policies and strategies arising from one of this countries should address the plight of the LDCs. One standard strategy cannot work for all the countries.

• It is fundamental to know that every new strategy to reduce the digital divide has to have a framework for coordination involving the stakeholders between the public and private sectors. This is a key component.
ITU’s Progress and Challenges

1. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Least Developed Countries

- Improvement in connectivity from 2000 to 2008.

- **Fixed Telephony: 11%**
  Top 5 LDCs
  1. Samoa
  2. Maldives
  3. Tuvalu
  4. Cape Verde
  5. Yemen
ITU’s Progress and Challenges

1. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Least Developed Countries

- Improvement in connectivity from 2000 to 2008.

- **Mobile cellular: 77%**
  Top 5 LDCs
  1. Maldives
  2. Gambia
  3. Samoa
  4. Mauritania
  5. Cape Verde
ITU’s Progress and Challenges

1. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Least Developed Countries

- Improvement in connectivity from 2000 to 2008.

- **Internet users: 50%**
  Top 5 LDCs
  1. Tuvalu
  2. Maldives
  3. Cape Verde
  4. S. Tomé & Príncipe
  5. Sudan
ITU’s Progress and Challenges

Barriers to the use of ICTs

• Lack of infrastructure
• Very low income of the people
• Cultural environment (Language, gender, generation)
ITU’s Projects in LDCs

Rural connectivity in Samoa
• The public internet access centers are managed by Women.

Government services in Rwanda
• This project gives people in rural and urban areas new access to administrative services.

VoIP for e-government convergence in Burkina Faso and Mauritania
• IP platforms are being implemented on the government optical fibre network to develop government services and applications covering the national territory.

Health care in Senegal
• This project links the University Hospital of Dakar-Fann in Senegal with the Regional Hospital in Dioubel.
ITU’s Projects in LDCs

Building Human Resources for the Information society
- The project established Internet Training Centres in Bhutan providing internet and ICT training programmes to end-users and advance users.

Bridging the Digital Postal Divide in Bhutan
- This project allows e-mail messages that are sent to the post office to be delivered as local mail.
ITU’s collaboration in Emergencies

Haiti earthquake

- The ITU has deployed equipment to reestablish the telecommunication networks in the response phase

- 41 satellite terminals
- 1 base station
- Human resources
- Training programmes
- Collaboration from partnerships
THANK YOU

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Least Developed Countries
Small Island Developing States
Emergency Telecommunications
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