

**Trade and Development Board, fifty-ninth session**  
Geneva, 17–28 September 2012

**(Item 5) and UNCTAD's contribution to the  
implementation of the Istanbul Programme  
of Action for LDCs: First progress report**

**General statements by regional groups**  
**Speaker: Nepal on behalf of the LDCs**

**Friday, 21 September 2012**

*Not checked against delivery \**

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**Statement made, on behalf of the LDCs, by H.E. Mr. Shanker D. Bairagi,  
Permanent Representative of Nepal, at the 59th session of the Trade and  
Development Board of UNCTAD, on the agenda item 5: UNCTAD's  
contribution to the implementation of Istanbul Programme of Action,  
September 21, 2012, Geneva.**

Mr. President,

Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates:

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries.

I associate with the statement delivered earlier by Indonesia on behalf of the G77 and China.

I appreciate the UNCTAD Secretariat for providing useful background documents for deliberation on the agenda item.

Mr. President,

The IPoA is a development compact built on renewed and strengthened global partnership for LDCs' development for the decade 2011-2020. Its overarching goal is to overcome the structural challenges faced by LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from LDC category. Accordingly, it sets an ambitious yet legitimate target of enabling half of them to reach the stage of graduation by 2020. Five specific objectives, eight priority areas, 16 joint actions, 126 actions by LDCs and 109 by their development partners have been outlined to achieve the overarching goal.

Based on lessons learned from the implementation of previous programmes of action, the IPoA has laid emphasis on building LDCs' productive capacity across the board. This is to be supported by increased investment in infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and human capital. The high number of commitments, 44 in total, under productive capacity reflects its importance.

Translating IPoA commitments into tangible actions and actions into results that have impacts on lives of millions of the poor is a major challenge facing the international community. This can be done by the combination of effective national policies and actions strongly backed by enhanced international support measures in all major pillars - trade, ODA, FDI, debt relief and transfer of technology. The effectiveness of international support measures will depend on their adequacy, consistency and coherence. LDCs must be provided with requisite policy space to play an effective role in economic and social development under their leadership and ownership.

Mr. President,

UNCTAD has long been championing the cause of LDCs. We recall the pioneering efforts of UNCTAD and its commitments to focus on overcoming structural impediments of the LDCs that helped place the LDCs issues firmly in the international development agenda. As LDCs' basic development challenges remain deeply entrenched and multiplied, we expect UNCTAD, in collaboration with other relevant UN-System agencies, to spearhead international efforts in substantially advancing LDCs' agenda. The Istanbul Programme of Action has mandated UNCTAD with a special role in addressing the challenges faced by LDCs.

We appreciate UNCTAD's continued efforts in assisting LDCs. The research and policy analysis work as well as country case studies on selected thematic or sectoral issues of interest to LDCs are crucial for supporting their policymaking capacities. Likewise, specific technical cooperation and capacity building such as DMFAS, ASYCUDA and EIF are vital for building our institutional capacities and improving LDCs' trade and development policies. UNCTAD should further scale up these works.

We are encouraged by UNCTAD's immediate response to IPoA call by conducting a study on the role of commodities and agricultural productivity in the process of graduation. The analysis provides deeper policy insights as to how the structural weakness, excessive fragility and vulnerability to shocks of the economies of LDCs pose a challenge for graduation.

Given its strength and capacity in research, analysis and policy advocacy, UNCTAD can greatly contribute to advancing the implementation of IPoA priorities in all areas. It should continue to sensitize the governments both in LDCs and their development partners about the need for fulfilling their respective commitments made in the IPoA. It should develop an operational methodology and policy guidelines for the effective implementation of IPoA. The Doha Mandate has already called on UNCTAD to devise such methodology to mainstream productive capacities in national development policies and strategies in LDCs.

UNCTAD can help translate all relevant qualitative goals and targets into quantifiable ones. The Doha Mandate has asked UNCTAD to develop quantifiable indicators to measure economy-wide productive capacities in LDCs. Likewise, UNCTAD has been asked to contribute to build national databases and statistical capacities in LDCs to ensure the higher reliability of information. This will help monitor implementation progress including on meeting graduation thresholds.

UNCTAD should play a proactive role to ensure that LDCs' concerns, voice and representation are duly taken on board in existing and emerging international development processes, including in defining post MDG development agenda.

UNCTAD should continue to make the strong case for enhanced, coordinated, complementary and coherent mobilization of international support measures. It should continuously monitor and highlight the extent and impact of preferential market access for the LDCs' products against the commitments made. It should focus on studying the scale and sectoral balance and orientation of ODA and identify to what extent ODA is contributing to the development of productive sectors as promised in IPoA. UNCTAD's research expertise will remain useful in exploring how the international commitments on IP flexibilities and transfer of technology can be operationalized for LDCs' benefits. UNCTAD has been doing useful works through its reviews of investment policies in

**LDCs and this has to continue with a special focus on how LDCs can receive more investment in productive sectors.**

**Greater coordination and collaboration among the key actors will enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the IPoA to deliver results on the ground. LDCs' development after all is a moral, economic and political imperative as underscored in the IPoA.**

**I thank you for kind attention.**