

Regional Meeting on Financing Graduation Gaps of Asia-Pacific LDCs

Jointly organized by
The Government of Bangladesh
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Dhaka, Bangladesh
28-30 October 2014

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

(AS OF 29 OCTOBER 2014)

RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

08:30 – 09:30 hrs	Registration
09:30 – 10:30 hrs	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Mannan MP Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning Government of Bangladesh</p> <p>Chief Guest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith MP, Minister of Finance, Government of Bangladesh <p>Welcome remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh <p>Video Message by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP <p>Statement by Special Guest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh <p>Inaugural Statement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith MP, Minister of Finance, Government of Bangladesh <p>Closing Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Mannan MP, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh

10:30 – 10:45 hrs	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:30 hrs	<p>Election of officers (from the participating LDCs)</p> <p>Session 1: Regional Overview of the progress made and challenges encountered by Asia-Pacific LDCs in closing their development gaps</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh</p> <p>Presentation by: Mr. Syed Nuruzzaman, Chief, Countries with Special Needs, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka ▪ Mr. Sharada Prasad Trital, Member-Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal <p>The main objective of this session is to discuss the progress made so far and challenges encountered by the LDCs of the region in their efforts to graduate from their LDC status. An assessment of the progress made in key areas such as achieving sustained economic growth, reducing poverty and inequalities, creating productive capacity, investing in social and physical infrastructure, diversifying exports, mobilizing and effectively utilizing development finance, fostering human resources development, and improving institutional capacity would be presented and discussed. In the rapidly changing global and regional context, the opportunities and challenges faced by the LDCs in their efforts for integration would be highlighted with a particular emphasis on regional cooperation and South-South Cooperation. Forward looking medium- to long-term policy options that would be essential for the Asia-Pacific LDCs to meet the criteria for graduating from their LDCs status would be discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country statements ▪ Open discussion ▪ Summary by the Chair
12:30 – 13:30 hrs	<p>Presentation of key findings and messages of the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014</i> by Mr. Oliver Paddison, Economic Affairs Officer, MPDD, ESCAP (working lunch will be served)</p>
13:30 – 15:00 hrs	<p>Session 2: The LDC category and the refined LDC criteria: Implications for graduation</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Mr. Victor Samuel Ngele, Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Malaysia, Government of Solomon Islands</p> <p>Presentations by: Ms. Ana Cortez, Secretary of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP), UNDESA and Mr. Matthias Bruckner, CDP Secretariat, UNDESA</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Chairman, Economic Research Group, Dhaka and Member, United Nations Committee for Development Policy, UNDESA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Aynul Hasan, Director, MPDD, ESCAP ▪ Mr. Khamson Daophonechaleun, Deputy Director of UN System, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Government of the Lao PDR <p>The main objective of this session is to present briefly an overview of the main stages towards graduation from the category and provide an update on the LDC criteria in view of the refinements recently introduced by the CDP at its latest plenary meeting in March 2014 [Committee for Development Policy, Report on the sixteenth session (24-28 March 2014). Economic and Social Council Official Records, 2014, Supplement No. 33. E/2014/33]. It will also provide information on and explain the recently refined LDC criteria, of which the most significant one is related to the establishment of the thresholds for inclusion and graduation from the category. Thresholds will be set at absolute rather than relative levels, focusing on the notion of development progress as overcoming absolute structural impediments. Besides reviewing the three main components of the LDC criteria [gross national income (GNI) per capita, human asset index (HAI) and economic vulnerability index (EVI)], the presentation will discuss the possible implications of having fixed thresholds for graduation prospect, using the participating ESCAP LDCs as illustration. The presentation will also review the progress made by current and former ESCAP LDCs vis-à-vis the LDC criteria, highlighting various graduation pathways that may be of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country statements ▪ Open discussion ▪ Summary by the Chair
15:00 – 15:15 hrs	Coffee Break
15:15 – 17:00 hrs	<p>Session 3: Financing graduation gaps: some regional and country estimates</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Korm Ribaun, Deputy Secretary-General, National Committee for ESCAP, Council of Ministers, Government of Cambodia</p> <p>Presentation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Clovis Freire, Economic Affairs Officer, MPDD, ESCAP on the regional estimates <p>Country Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rabi Shanker Sainju, Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal • Ms. Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury, Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), • Ms. Amphophone Sayasenh, Research Fellow, National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Lao PDR <p>The main objective of this session is to present and discuss some estimates of the level of financial investment needed to close graduation gaps in all 12 LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region. LDCs need significant resources to overcome their development challenges: large investments are needed in infrastructure; to finance adaptation to climate change and mitigate its impacts; and to make progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the graduation out of LDC status. This session will focus on the latter and</p>

	<p>will consider estimates of the range of investment needed for Asia-Pacific LDCs to graduate, taking into consideration: the growth required to reach the GNI threshold for LDC graduation; the amount of public investment required for the LDCs of the region to meet the HAI gaps; and the amount of public and private investment to close the EVI gaps. The session will also cover and discuss detailed case studies with estimates to close the graduation gaps in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Solomon Islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country statements ▪ Open discussion ▪ Summary by the Chair
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Wednesday, 29 October 2014

<p>09:00 – 10:30 hrs</p>	<p>Session 4: Mobilizing resources to close the graduation gaps: some regional and country perspectives</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Sharada Prasad Trital, Member-Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</p> <p>Presentation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Clovis Freire, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, ESCAP on regional perspectives <p>Country Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rabi Shanker Sainju, Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal • Dr. Md. Abul Basher, Research Associate, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), • Ms. Amphaphone Sayasenh, Research Fellow, National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Lao PDR • Mr. Kim Veara, Senior Researcher and Assistant Dean, Faculty of Development Studies, Royal University of Phnom Penh <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Md. Ghulam Hossain, Chairman, National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh • Mr. Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Mr. Anis A. Khan, Chairman, Bangladesh Primary Dealers Association and Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Bankers Association <p>The main objective of this session is to discuss innovative ways for mobilizing resources to close the graduation gaps. In general, financial resources can be divided into two broad sources: domestic and foreign, both from public and private. Domestic investable resources include household, corporate and government savings. Foreign investable resources include funds from multinational corporations (i.e. foreign direct investment), the international banking system (commercial short- and medium-term loans), from international capital markets (foreign private portfolio investments), from bilateral donor governments (i.e. Official development assistance) and from multilateral development financial institutions such as the World Bank and ADB.</p>
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	<p>The session will cover the Asia-Pacific regional perspective in terms of development financing strategy options that could facilitate the mobilization of new and additional resources to close graduation gaps. The session will also discuss LDCs experiences with issues related to climate finance such as the mitigation and adaptation financing needs, availability of funds and policy options. Detailed case studies will be presented on the potential strategies for mobilizing resources to close graduation gaps in selected LDCs.</p>
10:30 – 10:45 hrs	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:30 hrs	<p>Session 4 (continued): Mobilizing resources to close the graduation gaps: some regional and country perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country statements ▪ Open discussion ▪ Summary by the Chair
12:30 – 14:00 hrs	<p>Presentation on “Integrating IPoA in national development strategies: the case of Bangladesh” by ERD, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh (working lunch will be served)</p>
14:00 – 16:00 hrs	<p>Session 5: Mobilizing resources to close the graduation gaps: Exploring synergies between International Support Measures for LDCs and national resources</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Toufiq Ali, Chief Executive, Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre, Dhaka and former Ambassador to the WTO and UN bodies in Geneva.</p> <p>Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ana Cortez, Secretary of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy, UN DESA and Mr. Matthias Bruckner, CDP Secretariat, “Key provisions in international frameworks and agreements for LDCs” • Mr. Oliver Paddison, MPDD, ESCAP, “Development Finance for LDCs: trends, effectiveness and prospects” <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Zaidi Sattar, Chairman, Policy Research Institute, Dhaka • Ms. Thida Myint, Director, Planning Department, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Government of Myanmar • Ms. Rose Kitua, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Planning and Aid Coordination, Government of Solomon Islands <p>The session will highlight the insufficiency of support, particularly ODA, available to overcome structural impediments of LDCs and how these countries could explore possible synergies between international support measures, including those beyond LDC category, and national resources. Discussion could highlight the key issues and trends related to creation of global and national enabling environment, market access, trade facilitation, Aid for Trade, ODA, private (financial) flows, technology transfer, science-technology-innovation, and south-south and triangular cooperation.</p> <p>There will be two presentations, the first of which will outline the international support measures available for LDCs, covering development assistance,</p>

	<p>international trade and general support measures. The presentation will also explore possible approaches of how such measures could be further enhanced to provide additional resources for LDCs.</p> <p>The second presentation will focus on the recent trends and patterns in flows of ODA, FDI and Aid for Trade and bilateral and other private flows to the LDCs. It will analyze how these and other resources can be leveraged to bridge the financing gaps for graduation of LDCs in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country statements • Open discussion • Summary by the Chair
	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
<p>16:15 – 18:15 hrs</p>	<p>Session 6: Capacity and institution building and other support arrangements and resource utilization in closing the graduation gaps</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank</p> <p>Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Khalilur Rahman, Chief, Policy Development and Coordination, UN-OHRLS and Secretary, UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Technology Bank for LDCs • Mr. Charles Scheiner, The Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis, Dili <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mahub Ahmed, Senior Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh • Dr. M. Aslam Alam, Secretary, Bank and Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh <p>Mobilizing financial resources is necessary but not a sufficient condition for closing the financing gaps and eventually for comprehensive graduation of the LDCs. Equally important is how the LDCs manage to use those resources so as to close their development gaps and put themselves on an accelerated and sustained path of development. In addition to political commitment, building sustained capacities and capabilities in the LDCs is equally crucial, particularly to have adequate absorptive capacity. LDCs must have the institutional capacity, including human resources, in place to formulate and implement national development strategies in a sustained and strategic manner. Sometimes, institutional capacity building including human resources will be part and parcel of mobilizing and utilizing financial resources for development. In other words, these processes may have to go hand in hand. Results-oriented planning and budgeting, two way links between planning entities and fully-resourced local administration/entities, and robust monitoring and evaluation systems, need to be ensured for proper use of financial resources for development.</p>

Thursday, 30 October 2014

<p>9:00 – 11:00 hrs</p>	<p>Session 7: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Implications for LDCs</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, PKSF, Bangladesh</p> <p>Presentation by:</p> <p>Mr. Syed Nuruzzaman, Chief, Countries with Special Needs, MPDD, ESCAP</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economics Division (GED), Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh ▪ Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh ▪ Mr. Riaz Hamidullah, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh ▪ Mr. Rabi Shanker Sainju, Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal ▪ Ms. Palipa Lauti, Ag.Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Government of Tuvalu <p>As MDG timeline (2000-2015) was coming to a close, and new global development needs and challenges appeared on the horizon, the Rio+20 (<i>Rio de Janeiro, 2012</i>) agreed to initiate a global consultation process to develop a universal Development Agenda for the post-2015 period (2016-2030). As was agreed in Rio, an inclusive intergovernmental process worked for nearly a year and half and concluded recommending a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related 169 targets. By September 2014, these have been recommended by the General Assembly as a key basis for finalizing the Post-2015 Agenda.</p> <p>This session will discuss the broad contours of the recommended goals and targets, their possible implications for LDCs, challenges in terms of making adjustments in planning and implementing processes, and discuss some of the key implementation issues of particular interest to the LDCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country statements ▪ Open discussion ▪ Summary by the Chair
<p>11:00 – 11:15 hrs</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:15 – 14:30 hrs</p>	<p>Meeting goes into recess for the Drafting Group to prepare key recommendations [A Drafting Group composed of one representative each from the participating LDCs will draft the draft key recommendations for consideration of the meeting. The members of the Group will select the Chair from themselves to conduct the Group's business]</p>
<p>13:00 – 14:30 hrs</p>	<p>Presentation of the Highlights of "The LDC Report 2014" by Mr. Khalilur Rahman, Chief, Policy Development and Coordination, UN-OHRLS and Secretary, UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Technology Bank for LDCs (working lunch will be served)</p>

14:30 – 15:30 hrs

Closing Session

Chief Guest : H.E. Mr. Tofail Ahmed MP, Minister of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh

Chair: H.E. Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh

Presentation of the key recommendations by the Chair of the Drafting Group

Closing Remarks by:

- **Mr. Syed Nuruzzaman,** Chief, Countries with Special Needs, UN ESCAP
- **Ms. Ana Cortez,** Secretary of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy, UN DESA
- **Mr. Khalilur Rahman,** Chief, Policy Development and Coordination, UN-OHRLS and Secretary, UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Technology Bank for LDCs

Statement by the Chief Guest:

- **H.E. Mr. Tofail Ahmed MP,** Minister of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh

Closing Statement by the Chair:

- **H.E. Dr. Mashiur Rahman,** Economic Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh