



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development



Road to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries Framework Issues and Specific Concerns

17 March 2011, 09.00-13.00

Centre de Conférences de Varembe (CCV), Room C
9-11 rue de Varembe, Geneva

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-IV) will take place in Istanbul in May 2011, with the purposes to assess the Brussels Plan of Action adopted at the UNLDC-III in 2001 and adopt new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of the LDCs. The current draft document under discussion within the inter-governmental Preparatory Committee for the UNLDC-IV in New York leave unresolved a series of issues, while influential countries are increasingly assuming diverging positions. Concerns persist regarding the framework of the final outcome of the UNLDC-IV as well as on concrete modalities of the new partnership agreement. Possibility of attracting additional development resources still appears to be bleak. Finally, institutional arrangement to follow-up the implementation of the possible outcome of the conference remains weakly articulated.

This meeting, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in association with the CDP, the OECD Development Centre, CUTS International-Geneva Resource Centre, and IDEAS Centre will bring together LDC delegates, new and traditional development partners, as well as experts from relevant intergovernmental organizations and civil society to share their views on the challenges ahead and to facilitate a candid dialogues among concerned parties. This meeting is a follow up of the International Dialogue on “Exploring a New Global Partnership for the LDCs in the context of the UNLDC-IV” which took place in Dhaka-Bangladesh last November and was organized by CPD and OECD Development Centre, with the collaboration of ICTSD, UNDP-Bangladesh and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Similar initiatives will be organized in the coming weeks in New York and during the UNLDC-IV in Istanbul.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

09:00 – 09.15 **Registration and coffee**

09:15 – 09:45 **Introductory remarks:**

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD

Kerem Alp, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the WTO

H.E. Dinesh Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of Nepal

09:45 – 11.15 **Panel 1: Strategic issues in view of the UNLDC-IV**

Introduction: **Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh in Geneva, Distinguished Fellow CPD

LDCs Trade and Investment Challenges

Matthias Meyer, Executive Director, Praximondo

Discussants:

H.E. Babacar Carlos Mbaye, Permanent Representative of Senegal

Bijoy Bhattacharjee, Economic Minister, Mission of Bangladesh

Ravi Bangar, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the WTO

Trudy Witbreuk, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Australia

OPEN DISCUSSION

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:30 **Panel 2: Implementation and monitoring mechanisms of the UNLDC-IV**

Introduction: **Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh in Geneva, Distinguished Fellow, CPD

Discussants:

H.E. Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping, Permanent Representative of Lesotho

Guus Houttuin, Deputy Head of Mission of the EC

José Estanislau do Amaral, Counsellor, Mission of Brazil to the WTO

OPEN DISCUSSION

12:30 – 13:00 **Closing Remarks**

Christophe Bellmann, Programmes Director, ICTSD

Régis Avanthay, Head of Partnerships and Networks, OECD Development Centre