GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP
TO FURTHER STUDY AND STRENGTHEN THE SMOOTH TRANSITION PROCESS FOR THE COUNTRIES GRADUATING FROM THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY CATEGORY

Second Substantive Meeting – Briefing by the Committee for Development Policy
16 March 2012, Conference Room 2 (NLB)
1:15 p.m.

OBJECTIVES: The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) will introduce the main conclusions of its assessment of the existing smooth transition provisions and identify how these provisions can be further strengthened and better monitored. The briefing will also allow the Committee to give support to the deliberations of the *ad hoc* working group and facilitate further exchange of ideas.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Co-Chairs:

H.E. Mr. Jan Grauls
Permanent Representative of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Brian Bowler
Permanent Representative of Malawi

1. ***Introductory remarks by the co-chairs***
2. ***Strengthening smooth transition provisions***

   Presentations by CDP members

   Ms. Mulu Ketsela, Vice-chair of the Committee for Development Policy; Alternate Executive Director of the African Development Bank.

   Prof. José Antonio Alonso, Member of the Committee for Development Policy**;** Professor of Applied Economics, Complutense University of Madrid.

   Discussants

   H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, chair of the group of the least developed countries

   H.E. Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of European Union

   Question and answers

3. ***Interactive exchange among the members of the working group***
4. ***Concluding remarks by the co-chairs***

Biographical note on CDP panellists:

Mulu Ketsela
Alternate Executive Director, the African Development Bank (AfDB), representing seven African countries. Previous positions include: Lead Advisor, Operations Resources and Policies Office, the African Development Bank; Executive Director, the World Bank Group, representing twenty-two African countries. She has also served as Alternate Executive Director, the World Bank Group; State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia. She has also served as Board member in the Development Bank of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Roads Authority. She was one of the economic advisors of the President of Ethiopia, with the rank of Minister. She has served as consultant to various international organizations and on several boards, such as the Coalition of Women against HIV/AIDS. Doctorate in economics from the New School for Social Research

Jose Antonio Alonso
Professor of Applied Economics at the Complutense University; member of the Development Cooperation Council of Spain; co-founder and member of the Board of the Association of Spanish Specialists in Development Cooperation. Director of the Journal Principios Estudios de Economía Política. Previous positions include: Director of the Complutense Institute of International Studies; Vice-Chancellor of Menéndez Pelayo International University; Director of Economic Cooperation (Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs); and adviser to the Conference of Ibero-American Planning Ministers. He has published books and articles on growth and economic development, international development cooperation, Spanish and European relations with Latin America, and globalization. Doctorate in Economics from Complutense University of Madrid.

Background documentation:

Concept Note, Issues Note, CDP background paper on strengthening smooth transition, all available at http://www.unohrlls.org/en/ldc/916/.
Further information on the work of the CDP on LDCs, including the background paper on strengthening smooth transition, is available at http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/index.shtml.