

Report

on the third workshop of the National Focal Points on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

18-19 July, UN, Geneva, Conference Room XX

1. The overarching objective of the third workshop of the National Focal Points (NFPs) was strengthening national capacity of LDCs for the effective follow-up and implementation of the Brussels Programme. Other objectives of the workshop included: briefing the participants on the preparations for the High-level Meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and identifying roles and responsibilities of the national focal points and national forums in strengthening the implementation of the Programme in the areas of employment (commitment 1), health (commitment 3), energy, building productive capacities (commitment 4) and trade (commitment 5). The workshop largely drew upon the Geneva-based UN system and international organizations (UNCTAD, WTO, WHO, ILO) and the World Bank. It also provided an opportunity for the exchange of national experience, lessons learned and best practices of the least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. In her opening remarks, *Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLS* recalled the history of the workshops for the NFPs and emphasized ownership of the process by the LDCs. She said that while the first workshop which had been held in 2004 in New York aimed at the understanding the Brussels Programme and defining the roles and responsibilities of the National Focal Points and national forums in its follow-up, implementation, monitoring and reporting, the second workshop held in 2005 had deepened the understanding of the Brussels Programme and focused on governance as the most important enabling environment for poverty reduction and sustainable development in LDCs. She said that the third workshop would take the process of capacity building further by focusing on specific areas (employment, energy, building productive capacities, development-led trade, combating the triple treat of malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis) which require special attention and additional efforts of LDCs.

3. Having briefed the NFPs on the organization of work of the workshop, she gave the floor to *Mr. Oussou Edouard Aho-Glele, Chairman of the LDC Group Coordination Bureau, Benin* who welcomed the participants and thanked the Office of the High Representative for organizing the workshop. In his view, the workshops proved to be very useful for deepening the understanding of the Brussels Programme by the NFPs, as well as of their roles and responsibilities. They also provided an important incentive for the effective follow-up to, and implementation of the Brussels Programme. Furthermore, they served as an important forum for the exchange of national experience and facilitated communication and networking among the NFPs. In conclusion, he wished success to all the participants success and expressed hope to see them in New York at the preparatory

meeting for the high-level meeting (HLM) on the midterm global comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme.

4. **Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States** then briefed the NFPs on the preparations for the High-Level Meeting on the global comprehensive midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. More specifically, he informed the NFPs about the inter-agency consultations initiated by the UN-OHRLLS with the UN system organizations; the informal hearings with the civil society and private sector held on 20 June 2006 in New York and their outcome and a great number of special events being organized by the UN-OHRLLS in preparations for the midterm review (MTR), including those in Geneva (the meeting with NGOs, the panel on resources mobilization, the South-South event), on the sides of the substantive session of ECOSOC. He also briefed on the HLM on 19-20 September 2006 and the expert group meeting to be held on 5-7 September 2006. He said that the Cotonou strategy will be presented as a G-77 and China proposal for the draft outcome of the HLM in September. On the questions raised by the NFPs he answered that one of five air tickets provided by the UN to LDCs for their participation in the General Assembly could be used for the participation of the NFP in the HLM. As for the dates of the expert meeting and the HLM, he explained that it was not possible to hold them back-to-back due to the High-Level Dialogue on Migration scheduled on 14-15 September 2006. Referring to the question on the coherent approach to MDGs and the Brussels Programme, he said that the Brussels Programme includes 30 international development goals, including MDGs, and is more comprehensive in nature. As for the logistics of the workshop, he explained that organization of the workshop depends on the availability of resources. Since those are donors' voluntary contributions there is always the element of unpredictability and uncertainty which hampers the planning and organization of the workshop, in particular, making the necessary travel arrangements. Given that the workshops of the NFPs are held annually in July during the session of ECOSOC, he recommended that they keep those days open. He added that the next workshop will be held again in July in Geneva during the session of ECOSOC and the NFP should plan accordingly.

5. Before starting the discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the National Focal Points and national forums of LDCs in the implementation of the Brussels Programme in the remaining 5 years, **Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS** drew the attention of the participants to the generic terms of reference (TOR) for the NFPs and national forums and the slide on the Brussels Programme discussed at the previous workshops and contained in their folders. She reminded that unlike the previous programmes, the Brussels Programme was a results-oriented programme which includes 30 international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Since the Brussels Programme is a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy tailored to the special needs of LDCs it also includes some LDCs specific goals and targets: growth and investment, reproductive health and transport infrastructure. All goals provide benchmarks for measuring progress in the implementation and serve as an important tool for policy planning. She also reminded about key principles in the

implementation of the programme: country ownership, results orientation, genuine partnership, market considerations and integrated approach. Referring to the generic TOR she reminded the NFPs about their key roles and responsibilities identified during the first workshop and invited them to discuss whether those roles and responsibilities need to be reviewed in light of the Cotonou strategy of LDCs in order to enable the NFPs to rise to the challenge.

6. During the discussion, some participants emphasized the importance of political commitment to the implementation of the Brussels Programme while others argued that political commitment have already been made, at the highest political level. There was no lack in commitments, what lacked was implementation. Concern was also expressed about the lack of support of the UN system to the implementation process. In the view of the NFPs, they needed greater assistance of the UN RC system to the preparation of their national reports given their limited capacity and resources for monitoring and reporting of the implementation, as well as weak statistical data underpinning the analysis. Some of their proposals to assist LDCs in preparation of the national report included the UN RC's office providing a local staff member or hiring a national consultant. Other participants thought that the national report should be prepared by the government, in consultations with the civil society and private sector. Alternatively, civil society can prepare their own, "parallel" or "alternative" report on the implementation of the Brussels Programme.

7. Some participants mentioned lack of public awareness of the objectives, goals and targets and commitments of the Brussels Programme, lack of coordination between the stake holders and emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships. Others question the location of the NFP in the Ministry of Finance and Planning and were of the opinion that he/she should be placed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which coordinates all matters related to international affairs. Most of the NFPs raised the issue of the budget for the Office of the NFP which could have enabled him/her to perform his functions and responsibilities. One NFP proposed that responsibilities also include participation of NFPs in negotiations process, in order to undertake 'concerted efforts' and 'speak in one voice'. A newly appointed NFP informed that his country's PRSP provides an excellent foundation for cooperation with donors and coordination of all stakeholders at the national level and asked whether there exist a format for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Brussels Programme. Three NFPs informed about the efforts to ensure integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of the Brussels Programme by incorporating its goals and objectives in their PRSP and UNDAF as well as national development plans and reporting on the progress in their implementation to their Parliaments. Some NFPs mentioned weak human capacity of LDCs as a major constraint for the implementation of the Programme.

8. Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova wrapped up the discussion by saying that ensuring integrated and coordinated approach is the crux in the implementation of the Brussels Programme. It could be achieved by a) integrating objectives, goals and targets in poverty reduction and national development strategies of LDCs; b) aligning CCA/UNDAF to the PRSP process; c) establishing linkages between the national forums for the Brussels Programme and the UNDP roundtables and the World Bank consultative groups where

they exist and d) making the national forums broad based, open and inclusive. She emphasized that long term BPOA-oriented national development strategies provide operational and investment frameworks that enable to mobilize international support and resources while goals and targets provide benchmarks for measuring and monitoring progress, policy-making and planning. She also said that while it was the sovereign right of the countries to decide on the location of the NFP, it was preferable that he/she is located in the Ministry of Finance and Planning which deals with poverty reduction and national development strategy, bilateral and multilateral donors, including the UN system, the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs) and other financial institutions. As for the budget for the Office of the NFP, she reminded about country ownership, including the national responsibility for financing the Office. However, the UN system could provide assistance to the Office, upon the request of the government. Such assistance to the NFP can be included in UN country programmes. At the global level, LDCs can include the request for assistance to their NFPs in resolutions and decisions of the UN system bodies, including in the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting in September 2006. As for the UN-OHRLLS, it had already undertaken a number of initiatives in this area and could explore, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO), an idea of organizing a joint NFPs-UNRCs workshop, as the next step. Such workshop could enable the RCs to better understand the needs of the NFPs in LDCs and identify measures to support them in their work.

9. Mr. Graeme Buckley, Senior Specialist of the Enterprise and Private Sector Policy, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department, International Labor Organization (ILO) kicked-off the expert discussions with a presentation “Promotion of Employment and Decent Work in LDCs”. At the outset, he outlined the tripartite structure of ILO. He emphasized its recent work and policy focus on PRSP and the importance of integrating the ‘decent work agenda’ into PRSP, as well as establishing linkages between PSRP, UNDAF and MDGs. This would require country-level work, cyclical approaches, and prioritizing goals. Mr. Buckley also introduced a relatively new concept of the ‘sustainable enterprise’ based on opportunities, freedom, productivity, equity, security, dignity of work as a means of creating sustainable employment. He emphasized that in the creation of a sustainable enterprise, one needs to first look at the socio-economic context (consumers, suppliers, workers, employers), and the use of resources: financial (credit, savings, equity, insurance), natural (air water, land, etc.), physical (transport and communication, buildings, etc.), human (skills, knowledge, experience, etc.) and administrative, regulatory and legal resources. Then one needs to analyze how to foster an enabling business environment through registration, licensing, property rights, dispute resolution and enforcing contracts, etc. Conditions of growth can then be identified depending on social relations, private investment as well as national participation. Mr. Buckley went on by comparing regulatory business environments in selected LDCs. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing that the strength of the sustainable enterprise was in its ability to impact employment in a high-impact, low-cost way.

10. In the question-and-answer segment the following issues were raised:

- Is there the possibility that the sustainable enterprise could become a high profit and low employment entity?
- How does social security fit into the concept of the sustainable enterprise?
- What role would trade unions play in relation to ILO's Decent Work concept?

11. In response, Mr. Buckley said that the goal of the sustainable enterprise was to not only become sustainable for the owner but also for the worker. Sustainable enterprises in all countries would also need to meet legal requirements in terms of social protection. Trade unions could function as vehicles for ensuring that requirements for decent work are enforced. In other words, they assume the role of advocates for the employees.

12. The second day of the workshop opened with a presentation “ **Building productive capacities of LDCs**” by Mr. Charles Gore, Chief of Research and Policy Analysis, Special Programme for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD). His presentation sought to introduce the concept of productive capacities, how they facilitate development, and how LDCs can move towards raising their productive capacities.

13. Mr. Gore started his presentation by the analysis of the LDCs economic growth. He stated that despite overall strong GDP performance, economic growth has not translated in poverty reduction in LDCs due to its high concentration in sectors (oil and mineral extracting industries) which were not linked to the rest of the economy of LDCs. He identified productive capacities as ‘missing links’ between trade and poverty reduction. Hence, development and utilization of productive capacities should be placed at the heart of national and international policies to promote sustained economic growth and poverty reduction in the LDCs. He defined productive capacities as “*the productive resources, entrepreneurial capabilities and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop*”. He added that productive capacities create only a potential for production and growth. Very much depends on their utilization and development. Development of productive capacities, in turn, requires capital accumulation, technological progress and structural change. He also identified three major constraints to the development of productive capacities: a) weak physical infrastructure; b) weak institutions and c) demand constraints. He proposed a ‘joint-up approach’ to infrastructure development which includes a) rural infrastructure; b) large-scale national infrastructure; and c) cross border regional infrastructure. He said that closing the electricity divide is as significant for economic growth and poverty reduction as closing the digital divide.

14. Mr. Gore concluded his presentation by emphasizing the need for a paradigm shift as a prerequisite for achieving successful development and utilization of productive capacities. The current paradigms dictate focus on social aid provision but there is also a need to focus on production and employment. Poverty reduction policies ought to shift from exchange, consumption, framework, supply-side, tradables to production, employment, ingredients, supply and demand, tradables and non-tradables; from FDI to private domestic investments and FDI; from welfare state to development state.

Investment climate in LDCs must be also significantly improved and ODA must support development and full utilization of productive capacities in LDCs.

15. In the question-and-answer segment the following issues were raised by the participants:

- There seems to be no consistency between the UN and the other Bretton Woods institutions in terms of social aid and fostering competitive market conditions.
- How does the provision of universal primary education translate to skill procurement to enhance productivity?
- How do we prioritize the quality of labor relations against the quality and quantity of productivity?
- How do we prioritize commitment 4 with other six commitments of the Brussels Programme?
- With the lack of financial resources in terms of raising productive capacities, how do we create demand?
- What can be done to ensure that informal sectors contribute to growth, reduction of poverty and sustainable development in LDCs?
- Don't you think that the problem of low productivity lies in the level of capacities and coordination?
- Could LDCs develop without capital accumulation?
- Is there a possibility that recent focuses on oil production could hurt other sectors such as agriculture?

16. Mr. Gore answered that social aid provision was just as important as building productive capacities since health, education, and nutrition ensure a productive labor force. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that components of both social aid and market enabling conditions are addressed in order to achieve sustainability in development. With regard to education, Mr. Gore agreed that quality and level of education are equally important for building productive capacity in LDCs. Since LDCs are not producing enough engineers and there is also low enrollment at the tertiary level they face a significant loss of productivity due to "Brain Drain."

17. In terms of labor relations, Mr. Gore stressed that while labor was vital for the development of productive capacities it still requires machinery and equipment to operate efficiently. Regarding creating demand to meet the productivity, Mr. Gore explained that FDI were driving investment processes but not necessarily the domestic private sector. This is due to the lack of market access with an abundance of informal enterprises. Medium and small size firms are engines for productive capacities, and a key component to their formalization lies in the ability to create linkages between small and large-size firms, so as to facilitate to the transfer of knowledge and opportunity. LDCs need to create enabling environment for industrial and agricultural productivity that needs strong capital accumulation. In other words, it is necessary to ensure rising investment and incomes in LDCs.

18. The morning session concluded by the presentation of Ms Anna Blank, **Counselor, Head of the LDC Development Division, the World Trade Organization (WTO)**. In

her presentation, she emphasized that the WTO was not an international agency for development, but rather an organization that sought to bring to the table issues of fair trade and policy in a rapidly globalizing world. She said that 32 LDCs were Members of the WTO, and a further 10 were in the process of accession. The LDCs, as a Group, account for more than a fifth of the WTO Membership. She further informed about the work of the WTO LDCs' Consultative Group and its role in the DDA negotiations as well as the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference LDCs-related decisions on a) agriculture and NAMA, b) special and differentiated (S&D) treatment of LDCs, c) cotton, d) services, e) Integrated Framework, and f) Aid for Trade.

19. She also outlined seven major areas in the WTO work programme for LDCs: 1) market access for LDCs; 2) trade-related technical assistance and capacity building initiatives for LDCs; 3) providing, as appropriate, support to agencies assisting with the diversification of LDCs' production and export base; 4) mainstreaming, as appropriate, into the WTO's work, the trade-related elements of the LDC-III Programme of Action; 5) participation of LDCs in the Multilateral Trading System; 6) accession of LDCs to the WTO; and 7) follow-up to WTO Ministerial Declarations and Decisions. She said that the Work Programme is the main platform through which the specific issues of interest to LDCs were considered by Members at the WTO Sub-Committee on LDCs.

20. She emphasized that market access is, undoubtedly, one of the most discussed element of the work programme. The Secretariat annually reviews market access for LDCs and, upon the request of Members, prepares notes on market access issues. In 2005, Members focussed their attention on a paper by the Secretariat entitled "Options for LDCs to Improve their Competitiveness in the Textiles and Clothing Business". The paper was prepared following the request from LDCs in view of the termination of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). This was an important contribution in responding to the concerns of LDCs in the multilateral trading system in the post-ATC period. At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee (12 June), Members had a first discussion on a Secretariat paper on "Non-Tariff Measures on Products of Export Interest to the LDCs".

20. In the question-and-answer segment the following issues were raised:

- Are all LDCs entitled to the Enhanced Integrated Framework?
- Is an LDC which already participates in the original Integrated Framework also eligible for the Enhanced Integrated Framework?
- How could LDCs address the non-tariff barriers? There were six other fiscal treatment clauses. Were those successful?
- Can non-members attend the WTO negotiations and meetings?
- Is aid for trade channeled through multi-lateral donors or WTO? Are there any specific caps to resource utilization?
- What measures have been put in place to ensure that graduating LDCs have a smooth transition?

21. The participants were explained that all LDCs can participate both in the original Integrated Framework as well as in the Enhanced Integrated Framework. There is no

direct link between the LDC Consultative Group and the United Nations: all dealings of this group with the UN take place through the WTO channels. Non-tariff measures were not necessarily non-tariff barriers. In a rapidly globalizing world, products still need to meet the specifications, standards, and conditions of the market. Finally, the Enhanced Integrated Framework is not a funding mechanism, but rather a tool that aims to make diagnoses and identify trade constraints.

22. The afternoon session was kicked-off with a presentation by **Mr. Mac Cosgrove-Davie, Senior Energy Specialist, Africa Energy Sector Unit, the World Bank**. He began by saying that energy is a key component to economic development and Africa seemed to be lagging behind all other regions in electricity access. More than 500 million people in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) lack access to electricity. External shocks ranging from natural disaster (drought), financial shocks (high oil prices), civil strife and poor infrastructure deepen energy poverty. Energy is important for quality of life (cooking, heating, lightening, communication, etc.), economic development (miling, pumping, refrigeration, lightening, etc.), and social services (health, educational and recreation facilities, street lightening, etc.). Its major consumers include households, enterprises, and public/communities. Improving their access to energy means overcoming multiple challenges in all three areas: generation, transmission and distribution. Those include 1) weak enabling environment at central government; 2) sub-optimal policy and regulatory frameworks which undermine market functioning; 3) limited capacity at operational level; 4) poor financial health of utilities; 5) limited consumers' ability to pay; and 6) high costs for network construction and fuel. Limited access to cooking fuels presents additional challenge. Poor private sector participation, bad procurement and infrastructure, limited human capacity, low tariffs and insufficient revenues, and high construction costs further exacerbate the situation.

23. The World Bank's support to the SSA aims to ensure affordable, reliable and sustainable supplies of energy services, as part of broader efforts to stimulate growth, reduce poverty and promote inclusiveness. It set the following three "stretch" targets for the SSA by 2015-2020: 1) increase coverage for households (>35% on average), productive enterprises (100% mostly in urban and semi-urban areas) and rural areas close to the grid ("electricity for growth" target); 2) >75% of schools, clinics, community centers & local administration electrified, using grid extensions where least cost and decentralized solutions elsewhere (solar PV, independent grids, small renewable generation) ("powering the MDGs" target); and 3) >50% households equipped with at least one modern, affordable light and >75% households use of improved cook stove or LPG and sustainable fuel-wood supply ("meeting basic needs" target). Improving access to electricity also implies increased generation and transmission capacity by focusing on big, cost-effective regional supply projects (hydro, coal, gas); regional integration to promote energy trade (SAPP, WAGP, WAPP), spearheaded by EAC, ECOWAS, SADC and other regional groupings and country push. In addition, several countries may need support for immediate generation solutions and some "pain relief" for mitigating high energy costs.

Sustainable generation and transmission of energy needs to be cost-effective and based on the following four pillars:

- Improved enabling environment
- Effective policy & regulatory framework
- Improved management capacity
- Financially healthy utilities

24. Scaling-up electricity access in the SSA also requires that multiple donors with different interests develop a long-term sequential programme of grid expansion and the project-to-project approach of infrastructure be reconfigured into broader multi-year strategy. “Syndicated financing is also necessary, to ensure sustainable and predictable adequate financing. Mr. Mac Cosgrove-Davies concluded his presentation by providing policy recommendations on energy for the MDGs and energy for the basic needs. He emphasized that countries need to create minimum packages with important focus on micro-credit (up to \$75) as a key component for financial options for households.

In the question-and-answer segment the following issues were raised:

- What are the options in terms of alternative energy sources?
- What is the viability of small-scale generation for small communities?
- Of the three constraints identified, which has the highest priority?
- How can we liberalize the energy sector without harming the rural poor?

25. Mr. Mac Cosgrove-Davies reiterated that alternative energies present infinite possibilities for the rural poor. There is the opportunity to reinvent the wheel of energy sources in developing countries as opposed to having to work towards phasing-out current sources as is evident in developed countries. This, however, needs a strategic approach. Grids are not the cheapest way to provide energy to remote areas, which is why the rural poor tend always to pay more for electricity. Mr. Davies suggested that local energy generation could be a solution. This alternative can be very effective when there is small-scale demand. Mr. Davies concluded by stressing the importance of energy sector liberalization. Recent technological innovations made possible different stages of energy supply such as generation and distribution to be split-up so that the private sector can participate in order to facilitate competition and ensure real access for the consumer.

26. The final segment titled “*The Challenge of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in LDCs*” of the workshop included a presentation on **TB Strategy and Health Systems in LDCs** by **Dr. Pierre Norval, Stop TB Department, the World Health Organization (WHO)** and a presentation on **Challenges and Opportunities for Responding to HIV/AIDS in LDCs**, by **Dr. Mazuwa Banda, HIV/AIDS Department, WHO**. Dr. Norval began his presentation by providing the overview and analysis of the TB situation in LDCs. He said that more than 1.7 million people die every year from TB in the world, including 500,000 people in LDCs, despite the fact that there has been a cure for TB for over 40 years. Africa has the highest incidence rates followed by South East Asia. TB remains a number one killer for persons with weakened immune system as a result of HIV/AIDS infection. The Global Plan to Stop TB (2006-2015) includes the following

actions: treat 50 million people for TB; save 14 million lives, put 3 million HIV+TB cases on ARV, treat 800,000 people for MDR TB, produce new anti-TB drug, develop new vaccines, provide rapid and inexpensive diagnostic tests. Current progress on these goals and targets is insufficient for reaching objectives of the Global Plan of reversing TB prevalence by 2015 and its complete elimination by 2050. As part of the implementation process, Dr. Norval emphasized six priorities:

- Pursue high-quality DOTS expansion and enhancement
- Address TB/HIV, MDR-TB and other challenges
- Contribute to health system strengthening
- Engage all healthcare providers
- Empower people with TB, and communities
- Enable and promote research

Implementation of this Plan requires \$56 billion. The current financial gap in funding is \$31 billion. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of the greater involvement of the private sector and collaboration of all partners as a means mobilization of domestic and external resources, necessary for closing the existing financial resources.

27. Dr. Mazuwa Banda gave the overview of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and emphasized that the Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most affected region. While it comprises only 20% of the global population it accounts for 60% of the world's HIV infections. On a positive note, the HIV/AIDS incidence rate has begun to stabilize and decrease in SSA. However, the following challenges still exist:

- Managing a growing epidemic
- Inadequate human resources
- Weak delivery systems
- High cost of drugs and diagnosis
- Inadequate coverage of interventions

Addressing those challenges requires growing political commitment; increased international financing and advancing technologies. The WHO's vision for health sector includes universal access to ARVs from now until 2010. This can be done through the development of country-specific packages, incorporating the following strategies:

- Promoting HIV testing and counseling
- Maximizing health sector contributions
- Accelerating the scale-up of HIV/AIDS treatment and care
- Strengthening and expanding healthcare systems

28. In the question-and-answer segment the following issues were raised:

- What is the relationship and policy between TB, HIV/AIDS, and Malaria?
- Are there any plans to focus on nutrition education?
- Are the targets achievable?
- Are we seeing the light at the end of the tunnel?

29. Mr. Banda replied that there was close correlation between TB, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. People without HIV are just as likely to contract malaria as people with HIV.

The only difference is within the culture of each illness. The knowledge of each illness is associated with its own different culture, stigma, and assumption. The goal is to bring those cultures together through education. Specifically, there has been policy implementation incorporating both HIV/AIDS and TB such as screening. WHO is pushing to encourage joint screening so that HIV patients get screened for TB and vice versa. In response to the question on nutrition, he stressed that nutrition was complementary, not a replacement for treatment. The best way to prevent TB is to get treatment as vaccines work only on children. Dr. Banda also said that while TB is contagious, it does not transmit easily among non-HIV people, thus HIV clinics need to think of implementing isolation activities to curb the spread among HIV patients. As for the future, he stated that most epidemiological targets can be met if the financial gap is closed. The technical targets seemed to him fully achievable.

30. Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative closed the workshop by saying that the next workshop will also take place in Geneva, on the sides of the next ECOSOC substantive session. He asked the NFPs to take this in account while planning their events calendar for the next year. He emphasized the importance of the effective follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting (HLM) on the global midterm comprehensive review at the country level: dissemination and raising awareness about the outcome among government officials, civil society and private sector. During bilateral meetings on the sides of the General Assembly, he would be recommending LDCs governments to discuss the implementation of the outcome of the HLM at their Cabinet meetings. He informed that a great number of LDCs delegations have already inscribed on the list of speakers for the HLM on the MTR and encouraged other LDCs to do the same. He also invited that to take an active part in the annual review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme by ECOSOC in the general segment next day.
