Mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries: A Toolkit

Report by the Office of the High-Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
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Introduction

1. The aim of this report is to support the ongoing efforts of organizations of the UN system in effectively mainstreaming the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) into their work programmes. To a very important extent, the Programme of Action has been recognized and emphasized by Member States in their articulation of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. This is an auspicious time for the United Nations system to strengthen its collaborative efforts to ensure that no country or person is left behind.

2. The IPoA, which was adopted by the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs in 2011, sets out an ambitious plan for the decade through 2020 to ensure that the tremendous human and natural resource potential of the LDCs is realized and brought fully to bear on ensuring peace, prosperity and sustainable development for all (see A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1). The Programme of Action represents the enhanced commitments of the LDCs, which have the ownership of and primary responsibility for their own development, and their development partners, to a renewed and strengthened global partnership. This partnership involves the UN system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, other multilateral institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates.

3. The Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) has institutionalized system-wide support to the implementation of the IPoA within the framework of the Inter-agency Consultative Group on LDCs (IACG). The IACG is convened regularly to build synergies among UN system and other international organizations in the implementation of the IPoA, and to enhance the scope and effectiveness of their support to the LDCs.

4. As called for in the Programme of Action, OHRLLS is required to report regularly to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly on progress by all stakeholders in the implementation of the IPoA. In a series of resolutions, Member States have emphasized the critical contributory role of the UN system. General Assembly resolutions 67/220, 68/224 and 69/231 called for the UN Secretary-General to appropriately integrate the work of the IACG within the framework of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), in order to ensure necessary coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action on a system-
wide basis, and also to include implementation of the IPoA as a standing item on the agenda of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). This underscores the view among Member States that the full implementation of the Programme of Action will require its mainstreaming by organizations of the UN system, including by maintaining constant visibility of the issues and concerns of LDCs at the highest levels.

5. HLCP and CEB have been engaged for some years in vigorous efforts in support of LDCs. CEB issued a statement to the LDC-IV Conference in spring 2011, in which the Board conveyed that it attached the “highest importance” to the Conference, noting that it was “essential that the international community achieve a strong outcome, which will positively affect the lives of 880 million people in the 48 poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world.” The Board affirmed that UN system organizations would “step up efforts to support building productive capacity in LDCs through more intensive and better targeted programmes and resources.” At its twenty-second session, following the Conference (fall 2011), HLCP agreed to consider the progress made by the UN system in mainstreaming the IPoA at the five-year review mark (at the Committee’s 30th session), and also issued a statement of commitment to “fully utilizing its analytical, technical and operational capabilities and resources” to the successful implementation of the IPoA and its integration into the work programmes of the UN system. The Committee also committed to supporting the role of the IACG.

6. Two years later, at its twenty-sixth session, HLCP endorsed a set of recommendations related to collaborative work with IACG to assist in the successful mainstreaming of the IPoA into the work programmes of organizations of the UN system. Among other measures, OHRLLS had proposed the development of a set of guidelines and best practices as a toolkit for mainstreaming activities, which would be prepared with the support of IACG.2

2 The Committee endorsed the following:
   a) In conducting its work, the IACG will continue to utilize the analytical, technical and operational capabilities and resources of the HLCP;
   b) To assist organizations that have not yet been able to mainstream the IPoA in their work programmes, OHRLLS will develop, with the advice of the HLCP and the support of interested organizations, a set of guidelines and best practices as a toolkit for mainstreaming Istanbul Programme of Action for consideration by the Committee;
   c) IACG members will take steps to ensure senior level representation of their respective organizations at the IACG meetings;
   d) IACG will continue efforts to harmonize its agenda with that of the HLCP. This will contribute to: (i) creating greater synergy between the work of the two bodies; and (ii) ensuring focused treatment of LDC-related matters in HLCP deliberations and reports, as appropriate. Accordingly, the OHRLLS will propose to the IACG to consider at its next session the integration of the IPoA into the post-2015 development agenda and to transmit its recommendations to the HLCP with a view to help ensuring that the Committee provides appropriate focus on LDCs in its own consideration of the post-2015 agenda;
   e) IACG will continue to make available to HLCP its reports, as well as its recommendations on major thematic issues before the Committee and CEB. As necessary, HLCP will consider and reflect these in its reports to CEB to help the Board maintain appropriate spotlight on LDCs in considering these issues;
7. The Committee’s consideration of this report aligns with its decision at its 22nd session to consider progress made by the United Nations system in mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action at its five-year mark. HLCP may wish to take particular note of the provision of recent General Assembly resolution 69/231 that invites the Secretary-General to “convene a UN system high-level event during the comprehensive high-level midterm review with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the UN system in support of the LDCs and the coordinated and timely implementation by the UN system of the IPoA and the outcome of the review.” It is anticipated that this event would provide an appropriate opportunity to launch the toolkit, whose finalization is requested in the same resolution.

f) In line with the decision at its 22nd session to consider progress made by the UN system in mainstreaming the IPoA at its five-year mark, HLCP will take up this matter prior to the midterm review of the IPoA, and subsequently consider the role of the UN system in the light of the outcome of the midterm review.
Mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action in the UN system

**Note to User:** The questionnaire has been designed along the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which covers eight areas. For each of these areas, relevant context is given, and affirmative replies gathered to date from IACG members are reflected as a point of departure for interested organizations. Supplemental information on the form of assistance given, as well as examples of best practices follow in each category. This is not an exhaustive list; all submissions are contained in a compilation document of individual questionnaire replies. Organizations that do not use the “LDC” nomenclature have been requested to refer to the current list of LDCs in determining their responses.

**A. Productive Capacity**

**Context:** The economies of LDCs feature limited productive capacities, which constrain their ability to produce efficiently and effectively and to diversify. This handicap translates into binding supply constraints and ultimately into weak export and economic potentials and limited productive employment generation and social development prospects. Building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if LDCs are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth as well as poverty eradication, achieve structural transformation, and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Ensuring productive capacity involves a range of interrelated policies that bring together the collective strengths of the UN system working in partnership with public and private sector actors and other intergovernmental bodies. Sectors include human rights, social dialogue, decent work, ending discrimination, providing quality education and vocational training, creating enabling environments for innovation and sustainable businesses, ensuring transport and other infrastructure for market access and trade, certifying quality standards, protecting intellectual property, building capacities within local institutions, bringing in appropriate data and expertise on sectoral issues, including those such as in energy that lead to sustainability, sharing best practices, leaving no one behind, bringing in additional financing and investment, ensuring appropriate reforms – issues that are covered in other areas of the IPoA. Looking towards the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Programme, actions in some key areas would help put LDCs on a path of stronger growth and sustainable development. Progress in building productive capacity in LDCs is critical to achieving the other seven priorities of the IPoA.
Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

(a) Increase significantly the value addition in natural resource-based industries paying special attention to employment generation;
(b) Diversify local productive and export capability with a focus on dynamic value added sectors in agriculture, manufacturing and services;
(c) Significantly increase access to telecommunication services and strive to provide 100% access to the Internet by 2020;
(d) Strive to increase total primary energy supply per capita to the same level as other developing countries;
(e) Significantly increase the share of electricity generation through renewable energy sources by 2020;
(f) Enhance capacities in energy production, trade and distribution with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030;
(g) Ensure that the least developed countries have significant increase in combined rail and paved road mileage and sea and air networks by 2020.

Questions:

Does your organization provide enhanced financial and/or technical support to LDCs to develop productive capacities?

ILO, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, ITU, WTO, EIF, ITC, WIPO, WMO, UNDP, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNWTO, Habitat, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNCDF, ESCAP, ECA, ESCWA, CFC, OSAA, OSSC, SE4ALL, UNOPS, World Bank, IAEA, DESA, IFAD

A. 1. PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY: INFRASTRUCTURE

1) Does your organization provide enhanced financial and/or technical support for infrastructure development?

UNCTAD, UNESCO, WTO, ESCAP, WIPO, WMO, UNCDF, WFP, Habitat, OPS, OSAA, IAEA, IFAD, ICAO

2) Does your organization support the efforts of LDCs to facilitate the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology for the development of infrastructure?

UNCTAD, UNESCO, ESCAP, WTO, WIPO, WMO, WFP, Habitat, OPS, OSAA, World Bank, IAEA, ICAO

3) Does your organization support private sector investment, including through public-private partnerships and grant/loans blending, for infrastructure development and maintenance in communication and multimodal transport such as railways, roads, waterways, warehouses and port facilities?

UNCTAD, WFP, ESCAP, UN Women, CFC, UNCDF, ILO, World Bank, IFAD, ICAO
4) Does your organization provide any form of assistance to the landlocked and small-island LDCs aimed at addressing the challenges of their remoteness from international markets and lack of infrastructure connectivity?

UNCTAD, UNESCO, WTO, ESCAP, WTO/EIF, WIPO, WMO, WFP, HABITAT, UNEP, UNDP, UNWTO, ODC, CFC, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD, ICAO

Selected activities in the area of infrastructure

Technical assistance: delivery of infrastructure with services through the whole project cycle (UNOPS), employment-intensive methods of infrastructure development (ILO), access to satellite data for high-impact weather forecasting (WMO), building of national capabilities in nuclear science, technology and applications (IAEA), building civil aviation capacity (ICAO)

Construction of transport and transit corridors to remove bottlenecks and promote access to markets (WFP)

Policy advice: growth impediments linked to infrastructure gaps (IMF), equitable access to sustainable urban basic services (Habitat), commercial, trade and industrial policy support to SPRs, including financial, tourism, energy and telecommunications sectors (UNCTAD), remove access barriers for tourism related to Open Skies and Visa policies and (UNWTO), supporting countries in developing and enabling environment for private sector involvement in infrastructure development (ESCAP) supports State in implementing international requirements relating to the safety, security, regularity, efficiency and sustainability of international air transport (ICAO)

Capacity building and training in various areas: mainstreaming trade into national policies, multilateral trading system, regulatory and institutional sovereign debt governance (UNCTAD), capacity building and training in areas including product development and diversification, enhancing human resource capacity along tourism value chain that allows for opportunities for participation in trade and the global economy, and supporting community-based, rural and eco-tourism or special segments (UNWTO); trade facilitation and transit transport corridors (ECA), market expansion through cultural goods and services (UNESCO), trade-related infrastructure (ESCWA), training of trainers on fisheries and aquaculture (FAO), access to ICT (ITU), aviation and personnel development in conformance with global norms that enables the operation of a safe and reliable global network (ICAO)

Standards and agreements: Trade Facilitation Agreement and Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (WTO), Guidelines on Fisheries and Aquaculture Emergency Response (FAO) The Convention on International Civil Aviation and its 19 Annexes and several treaties related to international civil aviation (ICAO)

Financing: across a wide range of infrastructure needs (World Bank), small infrastructure projects that address a supply-side constraint (EIF), Local Finance Initiative (UNCDF), investment in urban basic services, including transport (UN Habitat)

Knowledge and research: ECA, ESCWA

Advocacy: urban transportation systems (Habitat)
**World Bank**: Helping countries to meet infrastructure needs represents the World Bank's largest business line, which at $19 billion, comprised 47 percent of the total assistance to client countries in fiscal 2014. Green bonds also finance forest and watershed management, and infrastructure to prevent climate-related flood damage and build climate resilience. IDA commitments for infrastructure – including the sectors: Energy and Mining; Transportation; Water, Sanitation and Flood Protection; and Information and Communications – reached $10.4 billion. 260,000 kilometers of roads were constructed or rehabilitated worldwide between 2002 and 2013.

**ILO** has been promoting employment intensive methods of infrastructure development for over 40 years — accumulating a wealth of knowledge and experience on policy, technical and operational aspects. At present, the ILO supports 17 employment intensive investment programmes for rural infrastructure development in a range of LDCs. Through this work, the ILO has created significant employment opportunities through infrastructure development, and has facilitated the adoption of innovative approaches in countries such as Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar and Somalia.

As a response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the ILO joined forces with three other UN entities (UNOPS, UNDP and UN-Habitat) and entered into a public-private partnership (PPP) with the Episcopal Council of Haiti to help those left homeless in and around Port-au-Prince in returning to their homes and in revitalizing the economy by encouraging the setting up of businesses that could recycle and transform the rubbles into non-structural building materials for the reconstruction of the region. The ILO was responsible for three components of this ground-breaking project, namely: Supporting local entrepreneurs, Promoting employment and Rehabilitating the district by recycling rubble, where the latter was the main component of the PPP with the Episcopal Council.

This project can be seen as a good practice as it paved the way for more ILO involvement in post-earthquake Haiti, in particular within the realm of rehabilitation, infrastructure development and construction. Because of this project, the ILO now works closer than ever with other members of the UN family, such as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (UNSTAMIH). Most importantly, this project has also led to lasting human impact: 522 entrepreneurs and 33 trainers took part in the entrepreneurship training programme. With access to microfinance, 53 new businesses have been established in the construction sector; 766 microenterprises have been set up focusing on debris recycling and processing. These enterprises were also responsible for demolishing more than 7,000 damaged buildings, removing more than 800,000 m3 of the debris, produced more than 207,000 adoquins (building blocks for reconstruction) and generated 102,060 hours of work. The infrastructure was strengthened in affected regions of Haiti. For example, more than 9 kilometres of roads have been repaved using the recycled debris; and more women now have access to job opportunities in construction, which is a sector traditionally dominated by men.

**UNOPS**: As a central resource for infrastructure within the UN system, UNOPS facilitates and assists partners in the delivery of infrastructure to secure and drive sustainable development. We provide technical assistance and technical delivery services throughout the whole project cycle, from feasibility studies and master planning through design, construction and operations, to maintenance, decommission and rehabilitation. From building roads in conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan, to constructing hospitals and medical facilities in post-disaster countries such as Haiti, UNOPS operates in some of the world’s most challenging environments many of them being LDCs.
**UNCDF:** UNCDF’s Local Finance Initiative (LFI) supports LDCs to unlock their domestic capital markets for catalytic infrastructure investment in local economic development, and is monitored by indicators that measure the transformative effect on the local economy. The LFI is operational in five LDCs, and is most developed in Tanzania with a $100 million+ pipeline of investment projects for which domestic financing is unlocked by UNCDF seed capital. During 2014 the scaling up of this programme began through the training of 120 bankers, local government project sponsors and private project developers. A number of these key national partners will play a role in the national platform for local economic development that will provide a sustainable mechanism for local infrastructure finance to be established in 2015. Overall, 25 projects are in the UNCDF pipeline and are distributed into 5 main sub-sectors: 3 in agro-processing, 16 in energy, 3 in community service delivery, 2 in telecommunication, and 1 in industrial-manufacturing. Partnership strategies are developed with commercial banks and technical support is provided to minimize the project risks and the levels of due diligence that lenders have to do and make them attractive to local commercial banks.

UNCDF also provides support to expand the financial infrastructure of LDCs, in particular branchless and mobile financial services through its Mobile Money for the Poor (MM4P) Programme. UNCDF currently supports a number of LDCs to demonstrate how the correct mix of financial, technical and policy support can build a robust branchless and mobile financial services ecosystem. Each of the LDCs is in the early stages of branchless and mobile financial services and presents unique challenges. However, services such as transfers, bill payment, savings, or microinsurance can greatly improve the financial security of millions of households.

**ESCAP** is assisting the LDCs in Asia and the Pacific region to set up single window as well as adopt to paperless trade in order to reduce the transaction cost of trade by improving their soft and hard infrastructure needs. Within the commitment to strengthen trade and investment through connectivity corridors between South and South-West Asia and other subregions, the following activities are planned to fulfil on this commitment: 1) High-level policy dialogue on Transport Connectivity and Border Development Zones in Eastern South Asia has been planned to take place in August, 2015, in Shillong India. A study has been conducted by ESCAP to provide a background for the policy dialogue and 2) Implementation of the United Nations Development Account project on strengthening transport connectivity between South and Central Asia with a special reference to LLDCs, in conjunction with the mandate of the 18th SAARC Summit.

**ESCWA** provides technical support to all its members countries on issues related to developing trade related infrastructures through training workshops, studies and formulation of policies, identification of bankable projects and financing options.

Since 1999, ESCWA has developed an Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq including the three LDCs (Yemen, Sudan and Palestine). The system includes two International Transport Agreements on roads and railways, and one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime Cooperation, which ESCWA has been closely monitoring. Technical support and advisory services in this regard have been conducted mainly to Sudan and Yemen. Moreover, ESCWA is supporting Sudan and Yemens to establish and activate their National Transport and Trade Facilitation Committees. A close coordination and follow up takes place yearly through the meetings of the Intergovernmental
Committee on Transport (last one was the 15th Session of the transport Committee, Rabat, 27-28 January 2015) where Sudan was represented with Senior Officials.

**OSSC:** The LDC, LLDC and SIDS Facilities are innovative initiatives that are piloting new inter-agency collaborations. At the high-level, the Facilities are given political support from the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the UN-OHRLLS. The Facilities are supported by the implementing agency, SS-GATE, which is a marketplace launched and developed by the UNOSSC. Moreover, partnerships are formed on the ground with local NGOs as well as UN affiliated organizations (e.g. UNDP country offices, WIPO) to help coordinate implementation.

The innovation of this approach is that it takes existing infrastructure (political partnerships, technical platforms, knowledge banks, etc.) and appropriates them to more focused support for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. Working in this way reduces the costs of launching a new initiative from scratch and leverages systems that have been in place for some years.

**WFP:** In line with its mandate to eradicate hunger and poverty, and implemented through Special Operations activities, WFP engages in the construction of transport and transit corridors to speed-up the movement of food assistance, regardless of whether the food is provided by the Agency itself. Typically, these operations involve logistics and infrastructure work and are designed to overcome operational bottlenecks. As the UN’s leading logistics agency, WFP is well placed to resolve these problems. Special Operations are short-term in nature and usually complement emergency operations or longer rehabilitation projects.

The South Sudan Feeder Roads Special Operation, launched in March 2011 in support of the WFP’s South Sudan emergency operation, is an example of how the Agency’s work on transport and transit corridors contributes to the fight against hunger and supports sustainable economic growth. The main goal of the Feeder Roads Special Operation is to create farm-to-market access by rehabilitating rural roads in areas with an agricultural potential. This is one way WFP aims to improve food security and the livelihoods of the rural population in South Sudan and to contribute to improved general transport infrastructure across South Sudan.

**ICAO** leads the development and implementation of a coherent and harmonized global regulatory framework for a safe, secure, efficient, economically viable and environmentally responsible air transport operation contained in 19 Annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) contained in the Annexes and related policies are used by States to ensure that their civil aviation operations and regulations conform to global norms, which in turn permits more than 100,000 daily flights in aviation’s global network to operate safely and reliably in every region of the world, enabling trade, public transportation, tourism and the efficient distribution of humanitarian aid. ICAO also coordinates assistance and capacity building for States and regions in support of numerous aviation development objectives, produces global plans to coordinate multilateral strategic progress for safety and air navigation, monitors and reports on numerous air transport sector performance metrics, and audits States’ civil aviation oversight capabilities in the areas of safety and security. With the aim of closing the gaps that remain among States’ air transport development, ICAO launched a No Country Left Behind campaign to identify and coordinate assistance to needful States so that they may foster sustainable, local and regional prosperity and fully benefit from the improvement of their air connectivity.
ICAO has developed an Essential Air Service and Tourism Routes scheme, which is designed to provide guidance for ICAO Member States, especially LCDs, to take appropriate measures to ensure essential air services in their country, particularly remote areas, which could contribute to the development of critical air links and the broader social-economic development.

ICAO has developed case studies on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for aviation infrastructure development, which provides information on cooperative arrangements between the public sector and the private sector for the purpose of delivering a project or a service traditionally provided by the public sector. These case studies can be used by policy-makers, economic planners, aviation stakeholders and financing institutions as guidance when considering management and financing options for aviation infrastructure development, such as airports. The case studies on PPPs are made available online at: http://www.icao.int/sustainability/Pages/im-ppp.aspx.

ICAO’s aviation assistance and capacity-building activities support Member States in implementing effective aviation safety and security programmes in order to sustain a safe and secure development of air transport. In the area of safety, the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) was adopted by the ICAO Assembly and established on 1 January 2008 to address the concerns expressed by the ICAO Council on the safety status of aircraft operations in the AFI Region. In the area of security, thirty-four (34) LDCs (and amongst them 18 landlocked and small-island LDCs) have benefited from capacity-building activities in aviation security organized by ICAO in 2015. In addition to these initiatives focusing on specific components of aviation security and facilitation, on 29 October 2014, the ICAO Council approved the AFI SECFAL Initiative as an ICAO programme. ICAO, with the support of its members States and partners, developed the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan), which was launched in May 2015 in Maputo, Mozambique. The AFI SECFAL Plan is expected to change the prevailing aviation security and facilitation situation in Africa through an ambitious and clearly defined eight-year programme. This plan will benefit the 34 African LDCs, of which 16 are landlocked and small-island LDCs, and is aimed at reaching the global average in terms of effective implementation of the critical elements of the State aviation security oversight system and help in addressing the prevailing terrorism threats while supporting sustainable economic growth in Africa.

UNWTO: UNWTO has vast experience and far-reaching involvement in all world regions and has become the principal agency in the field of tourism for development. Among its broad area of word and focus, is the promotion and implementation of increased awareness among policymakers of the positive impacts of visa facilitation on tourism and economic growth. Visa facilitation is considered central to stimulating economic growth and job creation through tourism. Such measures and related policy assessment is undertaken in UNWTO’s Visa Openness reports.

ITU: The IPoA recognizes that ICT Networks are an infrastructure priority on par with water, electricity, transport, as well as institutional capacity for building viable productive capacity in the

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3 UNWTO visa facilitation – http://rcm.unwto.org/content/facilitation-tourist-travel
LDCs (Declaration 8a); and to achieve productive capacity for ICTs within the LDCs to “significantly increase access to telecommunication services and strive to provide 100 percent access to the Internet by 2020”. This recognition elevates the importance of ICTs to the level of a fundamental driver of development. ITU helps the LDCs to improve the information and communication infrastructure and applications for graduation. For example, ITU has contributed to Samoa’s graduation from the LDC status. This experience can be shared as one of the best practices to enhance inter-agency collaboration and can be replicated in other LDCs.

**UNIDO**: Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro- industries Development Initiative (3 ADI): The 3 ADI is a joint Initiative between the FAO, IFAD and UNIDO which aims at enhancing countries’ resource based comparative advantages through the implementation of competitive agro value chains. The 3ADI contributes to infrastructure development and market access (e.g. boosting export capacities while reducing reliance on commodities). For instance, in Uganda, through the “Resilience Building through Banana Value Addition” project (USD 10,934,933) UNIDO is strengthening local communities’ capacities to engage in the production of processed goods for exports. More recently, a new agro-industrial center has been established in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kimpese) with the support of the Japanese government ($1.3 million). As a result, more than 2,000 individuals have received trainings in manufacturing and food hygiene best practices, and were introduced to entrepreneurship and management; amongst them, 82% are women and 60% youth. This center is housing training facilities for rural populations, food processing activities and will enable the control of food quality for products such as cassava and fruits. The ultimate goal of the 3 ADI is the conversion of LDCs’ resource based comparative advantages into competitiveness through value-addition to primary commodities and value chains implementation.

**A.2 PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY: ENERGY**

1) **Does your organization provide enhanced financial and technical support to LDCs to improve efficiency in the generation, the transmission and distribution, and the sustainable use of energy resources, with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all?**

   UNESCO, OPS, ESCWA, ESCAP, UNCDF, OSSC, SE4ALL, UNEP, UNDP, IAEA, UNWOMEN, UNIDO, WIPO, ITU, WMO, WFP, UN HABITAT, World Bank, IFAD, ICAO

2) **Does your organizations provide financial/technical assistance and/or facilitate private sector investment to support LDCs’ efforts to develop the energy sector in generation, distribution and energy efficiency, including in renewable energy, other clean energy sources and natural gas?**

   OSAA, OPS, ILO, CFC, ESCWA, ESCAP, OSSC, SE4ALL, UNEP, UNDP, UN WOMEN, UNIDO, WIPO, ITU, WMO, UN HABITAT, World Bank, IAEA

3) **Does your organization help facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology for the development of clean and renewable energy technologies?**
Selected activities in the area of energy

Green Jobs Programme (ILO) which includes promotion of jobs in the renewable energy sector, especially in rural areas/involving training and promotion of entrepreneurs (ILO, UNESCO)

Capacity building/Workshops on solar energy in water pumping, promotion of investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, training of trainers on mainstreaming renewable energy technology in rural productive sectors (ESCWA), capacity building in Southern Asia through the implementation of the ESCAP and SAARC mandates on energy cooperation, energy markets and energy security (ESCAP), building capacity of African LDCs to attract investment in energy efficiency projects (ECA), appropriate technology use in buildings and transport (Habitat), meteorology as applied to wind energy (WMO), low emission capacity building (UNDP) Capacity building, technical assistance and innovation to support the use of clean energy in aviation (ICAO)

Support to low-income consumers to transition to cleaner and more efficient energy through microfinance (UNCDF).

Technical assistance: biofuels development (ECA), sustainable forms of domestic energy in buildings and transport (Habitat), development of national nuclear power infrastructure (IAEA)

Improving access to fuel-efficient stoves through the SAFE initiative in Asia and Africa (WFP)

Support in mobilizing resources to assist States in reduce aviation CO2 emissions in aviation (ICAO)

Policy recommendations to address growth impediments and macro-relevant issues linked to energy (IMF), for institutional strengthening (UNEP), to incorporate water constraints into energy development plans and investments (World Bank)

Research on energy subsidies (IMF), Energy Sector Directions Paper (World Bank)

Transfer of technology – biofuels in the transport sector and in households (ECA), fish drying technology (FAO, UNIDO), for weather/wind (WMO), renewable energy-based mini-grids for rural electrification and productive uses (UNIDO), solar photovoltaic, solar drying and biomass gasification technologies, rice husk gasifier (UNIDO)

Advocacy and outreach on sustainable energy for all including mobilization of finance (UNOPS, UNEP)
In the three years since the launch of Sustainable Energy for All in 2011, more than 85 developing countries have joined the global partnership, indicating their interest in working with SE4All. The list of LDC partners includes: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

In 2014, the first phase of the SE4All country action process has focused on 30 initial countries, including production of SE4All Country Action Agendas and Investment Prospectuses for each of them. The countries were identified based on the availability of programmes and funding, geographical mix, existing enabling environments and readiness to start working immediately. The LDCs included in the first phase are: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda. In many more countries, SE4All partners are working to implement and finance transformative energy projects, including through the development of SE4All Country Action Agendas and Investment Prospectuses, but also energy policies, rural electrification plans, and strategies for scaling up renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean cooking solutions.

As such, various LDCs have already embarked on the SE4All Country Action Process, which builds on multi-stakeholder consultations and improves institutional coordination as well as stimulating additional private sector investments. The process is connected to support for institutional capacity building as well as financial support for the implementation of the countries’ SE4All Action Agendas, such as the EU SE4All Technical Assistance Facility, ElectriFI, or the SEFA GMG Programme and more. For more information on the Process please review the SE4All Country Action Reference Document (CARD): http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CARD.pdf

The Process is further support by the SE4All Energy Access Practitioners Network which links up more than 2000 practitioners around the globe, working together to catalyze the scale-up of renewable and low-carbon technologies and spur the market toward universal energy access. The Network’s particular focus is on the removal of market barriers to the effective delivery of energy services by promoting the adoption of new technologies and innovative financial and business models, as well as the identification and dissemination of best practices and advocacy for universal energy access. This includes support for SME capacity building.

Further support for capacity building, research and the dissemination of technologies is provided by the SE4All Knowledge Hub, the World Bank, and the SE4All Capacity Building Hub, the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

On 2 October 2015, a G20 Energy Access Action Plan was announced under the Turkish G20 Presidency, with the support of SE4All, African stakeholders and other international organizations. It was adopted at the first ever meeting of G20 Energy Ministers. The Action Plan focuses on improving coordination of assistance, public and private investment, capacity building and technology dissemination, with a special focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. SE4All is mandated to support collaboration under the Action Plan, involving also other relevant organizations.

Source: www.se4all.org
UNESCO: As a contribution to the UN Initiative on “Sustainable Energy for All,” a project concerning the “solar electrification of rural schools” was launched in sub-Saharan African countries. The project concerns the solar electrification of 75 rural schools in 5 sub-Saharan countries (Benin, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger and Togo). The project addresses energy access in rural areas with the aim of improving the quality of education by using solar energy powered systems. The project also includes an ICT component and a capacity building element to ensure the sustainability of the project and the related infrastructure and equipment.

Recognizing that the supply of skilled manpower is a critical element in the transfer of technology, UNESCO launched the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training (GREET) Programme as a conceptual and organizational framework for promoting human and institutional capacity building, including in the area of energy policy and through related exchange of know-how and best practice. Under the GREET Programme, regional summer schools are organized on an annual basis for Africa and South East Asia. Training activities on renewable energy and related learning/teaching materials are also being developed.

WMO: The national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) have historical data that can be used to make an assessment and mapping of Wind Energy Potential in a country or region to enable proper installation of wind power generators; the Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) for Seasonal Weather Outlooks by the WMO designated Regional Climate Centres (RCC) and NMHSs provide crucial information for Hydropower generation & distribution; the Global Framework of Climate Services (GFC) has five pillars one of which is the User-Interface Platform (UIP) which addresses the concerns of the Providers of Climate information and services and Users of the same information and services in key sector exemplars that include Agriculture, Water, Health, DRR and Energy; NMHSs provide data on wind speed & direction (wind load) for development of Wind Farms in RA I. Technology to measure weather elements is being improved through use of the Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs).

ICAO: The ICAO-GEF-UNDP joint assistance project is a USD 2 million global project which includes the development of guidance and supporting mechanisms to assist the identification and implementation of measures by Member States to reduce aviation CO2 emissions, including through the use of clean energy. For example, ICAO has identified the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels at the international airport of Jamaica as an ideal candidate for a pilot project that could be replicated in LCDs and other States. (see also answer F.2.1)

ICAO is participating in the work of the Sustainable Bioenergy High Impact Opportunity (HIO), a multi-stakeholder coalition (which includes FAO, Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Carbon War Room, KLM and the UN Foundation) to scale up the development and deployment of sustainable bioenergy solutions to meet the global need for sustainable energy. This initiative will act under the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. It will pursue knowledge enhancement and information sharing, policy and deployment support, and seek innovative ways to finance sustainable energy access and renewable fuels projects.
UNEP supports LDCs and developing countries in general to improve energy efficiency and increase use of renewable energy as part of their effort to achieve low-carbon and climate resilient development pathways. It does so by providing guidance on sound policy, technology and investment choices and thereby assists countries to reduce emissions and drive sustainable development. With its team of experts and a network of partners, it supports the deployment and scaling up of cutting-edge clean energy technologies, and removal of financial and other barriers to renewable energy and energy efficiency. UNEP supports countries through the combination of four areas of focused intervention: improving understanding of science; providing sound policy advice for strengthening policy and institutional framework policies; catalyzing public and private finance for clean energy; and stimulating the uptake of low GHG and climate friendly technologies.

UNIDO: Renewable energy mini-grids: In Chad, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved in 2012 a USD 1.8 million project promoting renewable energy-based mini-grids for rural electrification and productive uses. In this regard, UNIDO is supporting infrastructure development and access to innovative and smart financial mechanisms through mini-hydropower based grids development in rural areas. Consequently, UNIDO’s approach intends to bridge the gap in the production of clean energy in rural areas through: (i) training skilled and knowledgeable technicians and public officers, (ii) raising awareness about the appropriate technologies while using the best practices to maximize effectiveness; and (iii) putting in place policies encouraging the involvement of the private sector (iv). This project is expected to be replicated in Rwanda, Uganda and other LLDCs.

IFAD: Biogas is becoming increasingly more popular as a form of energy to power rural communities in Africa who live far away from the electricity grid. As a low-cost integrated system providing alternative energy as well as organic manure, it also provides an answer to reducing gas emissions and improving soil fertility.

In Rwanda, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is supporting biogas as part of an environmental solution to reduce the cutting and burning of wood, still prevalent in rural areas as well as help rehabilitate degraded land. Some innovative biogas systems are being implemented under the IFAD-supported Kirehe Community-based Watershed Management Project (KWAMP) in the Kirehe District in the south-east of the country. "Under this project, IFAD is piloting a new biogas technology called "Flexibiogas" developed in Kenya, which is well suited to small farmers with limited livestock.

UNCDF: The CleanStart Programme supports low-income consumers to transition to cleaner and more efficient energy through microfinance. CleanStart is a global UNCDF programme helping to lift at least 2.5 million people out of energy poverty by 2017. This will help contribute to achieving development goals on poverty and hunger, education, gender, health, and environmental sustainability. To achieve this vision, the programme provides risk capital and technical assistance to competitively selected financial service providers and energy enterprises to: develop and refine scalable consumer financing models (Finance for Clean Energy); increase the ‘scale’ potential of these models by tackling critical bottlenecks in the value chain, for e.g. distribution, consumer awareness (Technical Assistance for Clean Energy); make research and tools generated in the process widely available to the industry (Output 3: Global Knowledge and Learning); advocate for positive industry-wide changes and broker partnerships with upstream value chain actors, for example e.g. investors, policy makers (Output 4: Advocacy and Partnerships).
A. 3 PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1) Is your organization actively supporting efforts to establish a Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Information supporting mechanism?

UNESCO, OSSC, UNWOMEN, UNESCO, ILO, ITU, WIPO, UNIDO, WMO, UNEP, UNCTAD, ESCWA, SE4ALL, World Bank, IAEA

2) Does your organization provide enhanced financial and/or technical support to LDC research and development, science and technology, including strengthening of national institutions?

UNESCO, ESCAP, FAO, UNESCO, UNCDF, ILO, ITU, WIPO, UNIDO, WMO, UNEP, UNCTAD, ESCWA, SE4ALL, World Bank, IAEA

Selected activities in science and technology:

Strengthening of institutions: for meteorology (WMO), for food safety laboratories (FAO), for ICTs/broadband (ITU), for investments in technology (UNIDO), for digital finance and mobile financial services (UNCDF), for advanced education in mathematics, science, engineering, and ICT (World Bank)

Curriculum development (ILO)

Policy support in STI (UNESCO, ECA), food safety risks (FAO/WHO), ICTs/broadband (ITU)

Knowledge platforms, publications and tools: UNESCO Global Observatory of STI Policy Instruments, Science and Technology Data Bank for science and technology monitoring (ECA), Climate Policy Centre (ECA/UNDP/UNEP/WMO/UNOPS), Global Database on Food Consumption Data (FAO/WHO), WSIS Stocktaking Platform (ITU), Global Environment Outlook and UNEP Live (UNEP), Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (UNIDO)

Capacity building/training: UNESCO, ESCWA, IAEA
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Technology transfer: ICTs/broadband (ITU), applications for nuclear technology (IAEA)

UNITED NATIONS TECHNOLOGY BANK FOR THE LDCS

The Istanbul Programme of Action highlighted the importance of science, technology and innovation (STI) as a key driver of productive capacity building in LDCs, and calls for the improvement of STI capacities of LDCs as a vehicle for structural transformation. Within this context, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 67/220, requested the Secretary-General to “undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis with the aim of establishing a Technology Bank and a science, technology and innovation-supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries.” Among the findings of this analysis was that there was no dedicated mechanism to address the particular problems identified in a comprehensive and integrated manner. The report of the Secretary-General to the 68th session of the Assembly proposed the concept of a Technology Bank with three interrelated functions aiming to improve the scientific research and innovation base of LDCs, help LDCs access and utilize technologies relevant to their development; and facilitate knowledge access and networking among the STI community in LDCs.

The Assembly called on the Secretary-General, on the basis of voluntary contributions, to constitute a high-level panel of experts drawn from the LDCs and their development partners, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders to carry out a feasibility study, with secretariat support from OHRLLS, in order to examine the Technology Bank's scope, functions, institutional linkage with the UN and organizational aspects. The UN General Assembly provided for operationalizing the Bank during its 70th session. Significantly, target 17.8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to “fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for LDCs by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.” The Government of Turkey has offered to host the Technology Bank.

Source: OHRLLS

The ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) has collaborated with and supported universities (some 14 in Africa and 12 in Asia) to raise the awareness of young professionals on the use of appropriate technologies with an aim to create capabilities and increase the employment content of infrastructure-related activities. It provides support to these institutions through the development of training material, research, development and implementation by providing curriculum development and ready-made modules for training. Similar exchange and support is provided through developing and networking national training institutes for capacity building of public and private sector operators.

UNESCO has been actively supporting LDCs, mainly in Africa, to formulate, review or provide methodologies to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their STI policies. To date, 14 African LDCs have received technical support in this area (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, RDC, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia). A number of these countries also participated in the UNESCO Global Observatory of STI Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN).
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Project - an open access database helping countries to reform and upgrade their national STI systems and to enable policy makers and researchers to monitor and evaluate their policies and programmes. Technical support is also provided to the LDCs to build their human and institutional capacities to improve the governance of their STI systems. Furthermore, UNESCO is also working with universities in the LDCs to establish sustainable STI policy training and research programmes that can address the lack of human expertise and institutional capacities in STI policy and innovation management, and is supporting the establishment of international inter-university networks for capacity-building in STI policy.

UNEP facilitates policymaking at global, regional and national levels through the development of integrated assessments that provide sound science as a basis for decision-making through the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) series of reports. UNEP Live, launched in early 2014, provides a system-wide approach to keeping the environment under review and facilitates the exchange and sharing of latest data into an integrated tapestry that supports assessments of the state, trends and outlooks of the environment. The platform allows countries, researchers, communities of practice and other UNEP stakeholders to access and share data and knowledge from global, regional and national sources. Near real-time data of air quality indexes, volcanic activity, sea-level rise as well as spatial visualization of red-list species and freshwater treaties are already available. National data-sets from over 100 countries are also online. Country contributions are particularly important, as ministries, especially in LDCs and other developing countries, often hold vast and useful amounts of data that are not easily accessible.

UNCDF’s Mobile Money for the Poor (MM4P) programme has supported branchless and mobile financial services in a select group of LDCs since 2012. In 2014, UNCDF has expanded the MM4P programme and it will now be able to increase mobile-enabled delivery channels for financial services to serve 17.75 million active digital financial clients, representing a net increase of 11.58 million users across eight LDCs (Benin, Lao-PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia). These targets aim to catalyze the uptake needed for the market to have sufficient momentum to ultimately reach the majority of the adult population.

The Better than Cash Alliance (BTCA) was launched in September 2012 in response to public and private sector demand for more strategic advocacy, research and guidance on digitizing these cash payments. The Better than Cash Alliance is an alliance of governments, private sector and development organizations committed to accelerating the shift from cash to electronic payments. The Better than Cash Alliance is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Citi, Ford Foundation, MasterCard, Omidyar Network, USAID and Visa Inc. The UN Capital Development Fund serves as the secretariat.

World Bank: The World Bank’s new $150 million Africa Higher-Education Centers of Excellence Project is funding 19 university-based centers for advanced education in West and Central Africa. It will support regional specialization among participating universities in mathematics, science, engineering, and ICT to address regional challenges. The Bank has set out a vision of achieving universal financial access by 2020 through the concerted efforts of countries leading their own reforms and through the harnessing of technology and data to reduce the costs and risks of financial services. In recent years, the Bank’s investments have helped to support 1.8 million farmers in adopting improved agricultural technology.
**IAEA:** Acting as a repository for knowledge and a facilitator for technology transfer, the IAEA in several LDCs aims to leverage the differences among Member States in the same region by enabling cooperation between them, creating synergies through networking, knowledge transfer and capacity building in specialized areas where nuclear technologies have an application, namely in the areas of: food and agriculture; human health; environmental protection; water management; sustainable energy development; industrial applications; radiation, waste and recycling. Through the use of fellowships and scientific visits, which provide specific training to professionals in enhancing their technical skills, the IAEA is contributing to promoting innovation in science and technology. The IAEA welcomes opportunities to establish cooperation with accredited institutions to ensure recognition of long-term training provided through its technical cooperation programme.

**WIPO** works with LDC development partners from Government and the private sector to afford enhanced access by LDCs to global patent information system. WIPO also facilitates fee free access to high end technical and scientific information resources. In this context, WIPO has put in place, in cooperation with public and private sector partners, a number of knowledge sharing platforms such as:

- **Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)** which focuses on improving LDCs’ access to scholarly literature from diverse fields of science and technology;
- **Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI),** which is a public-private partnership administered by WIPO and made possible through cooperation with leading patent information providers that provides, eligible patent offices and academic and research institutions in least developed and developing countries free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analyzing patent data; and
- **WIPO Re: Search** which catalyzes the development of medical products for neglected tropical diseases through innovative research partnerships and knowledge sharing.

The overall objective of these platforms is to contribute to LDCs' efforts to build capacity in science, technology and innovation, and to strengthen their integration into the global knowledge system.

WIPO has joined with other partners to support LDCs to address their green technology needs through the establishment of WIPO GREEN, which is an interactive marketplace that promotes innovation and diffusion of green technologies by connecting technology and service providers with those seeking innovative solutions.

Infrastructurerelated challenges facing LDCs in the area of innovation capacity building are addressed through the establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs). These centers are established through a national participatory process, engaging relevant stakeholders, which facilitates coordinated functioning and promotion of their use in LDCs.

WIPO also support LDCs to establish start-up academies to facilitate indigenous capacity development in IP teaching towards building a national knowledge based in innovation, science and technology.

One of the most important partnership programs between WIPO and LDCs is transfer of appropriate technology to contribute to their development efforts. In this context, a pilot project has already been successfully implemented in three selected LDCs namely: Bangladesh, Nepal and Zambia.
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(Africa and Asia). This project sought to identify ways and means of using patent information as a source of technology to address identified national development needs. Business plans prepared for the implementation of each of the identified technologies provide policy makers, business and industry leaders, potential investors and technical experts of the concerned countries with tools for informed decision making in the area of appropriate technology transfer and its implementation at the national level.

The needs areas which the project addresses are identified by the beneficiary countries from their national development plans and are related to health, education, agriculture, industry, trade, energy, environment, infrastructure development etc. The experience acquired during the completion of the national phase of the pilot project is being shared with other countries (new beneficiaries of the project) to support the setting up of important national institutions, such as national expert groups, national multi-stakeholders groups and national funds for the use of appropriate technology for development.

**A 4 PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY: PRIVATE SECTOR**

1) **Does your organization provide or support the provision of enhanced financial and technical support and the facilitation of technology to LDCs to remove structural and institutional constraints on the private sector?**

   UNEP, UNIDO, ILO, WIPO, FAO, WFP, ITU, WMO, UNCDF, ESCAP, ESCWA, CFC, OSSC, SE4ALL, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD

2) **Does your organization support initiatives to strengthen the institutional and managerial capacities and the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises in LDCs to improve their competitiveness?**

   ITC, UNIDO, ILO, WIPO, FAO, ITU, WFP, WMO, UNCDF, ESCAP, ESCWA, CFC, OSSC, SE4ALL, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCTAD, World Bank, DESA, IFAD

**Selected activities in the area of private sector**

Capacity development activities and development of the so-called ePing electronic toolkit (www.ePingAlert.org) to facilitate private sector access to information on changes in trade-related measures of (potential) trading partners (DESA). These activities are part of a capacity development project for removing constraints in utilizing trade-related international support measures for LDCs. The objective of the project is to increase national capacity in the governments and export sectors of participating LDCs to access and effectively use the trade-related international support measures for advancing development strategies of LDCs in overcoming structural and economic vulnerability.

Training program for entrepreneurs (ILO, UNCTAD, FAO, UNDP-youth orientation, UNIDO-youth and women, UN Women)
Advocacy and operational support on intellectual property right protection and exploitation, and in establishing linkages between innovators and investors (ECA)

Supporting local food systems and smallholder access to markets by leveraging the scale and sustainability of the private sector (WFP)

Policy recommendations on improving the business environment of the private sector, including the financial sector (IMF, UNIDO), regulatory frameworks, intellectual property and financing mechanisms for research and development (ECA), creative industries (UNIDO), tourism (UNWTO), inclusive finance (UNCDF)

Knowledge platforms and tools: SS-GATE, Women’s Empowerment Principles

Promotion of public-private partnerships (ITU in ICTs/broadband) (UNEP to promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance)

Curriculum on entrepreneurship for secondary and vocational schools (UNIDO) and curriculum for vocational training in tourism industries (UNWTO)

Direct support for inclusive financial services and products (UNCDF)

Supporting local pipeline of bankable projects (UNCDF)

Financing for private sector development (World Bank)

**OSSC**: SS-Gate, a market platform, facilitates the South-South transfer of technology-based solutions between small and medium-sized enterprises based in developing countries. These technologies boost productive capacities, employment creation and infrastructure development in the SME/private sector of developing countries. SS-Gate also supports public-private partnerships in support of local government efforts and inclusive development. SS-GATE has created an open source platform that is available for use by SMEs in developing countries. SS-GATE creates institutional partnerships with local agencies who have an existing mandate to support local SMEs and SME networks and to coordinate foreign direct investment for that purpose. SS-GATE adds value to this work by linking these local agencies (turned into SS-GATE “country centers”) with other agencies in the Global South through the SS-GATE global platform, through direct linkages and listing of selected appropriate projects/technologies. This is designed to support technology transfer on a South to South corridor. SS-GATE was established as a not-for-profit and independent entity under the guidance of UNOSSC, with 50 country centres performing as the conduit of projects and technology sourcing, thereby not duplicating efforts and reducing costs.

**UNCTAD**: This type of assistance is provided through UNCTAD’s Empretec programme. In Ethiopia, UNCTAD is currently supporting the Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP). The EDP aims to unleash the growth potential of micro- and small-scale enterprises through entrepreneurial skills training and provision of business advisory services. The project identifies and selects growth-oriented enterprises, as well as potential entrepreneurs, unemployed youth, and women entrepreneurs, and provides them with entrepreneurship training and an integrated range of business development services. UNCTAD’s Empretec model is the main methodology for entrepreneurship training in the country and is being implemented through Empretec Ghana, which
has been delivering a number of workshops in the country. Local trainers will be certified under UNCTAD’s supervision in 2015. UNCTAD provided assistance to the 8 established EMPRETEC centres in LDCs through advisory services, policy workshops and seminars based on the EPF, training to entrepreneurs and SMEs and support to regional networks and initiatives.

The Business Linkage Programme aims to connect large companies with dependable business partners in developing countries. In 2014, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania benefited from the programme. There is a growing interest from large companies, both domestic and foreign, in sourcing locally. UNCTAD’s efforts are on providing a portfolio of services that build the capacity of selected local suppliers to enter the companies’ value chains and become enduring business partners.

**ITU** is an organization based on public-private partnership since its inception. It has a membership of 192 countries, over 700 private-sector entities and academic institutions, twelve regional and areas founded on the principle of international cooperation between governments and the private sector. Going forth it is clear that adoption of regulatory reforms, the development of ICTs/national broadband action plans and significant investment through public and private partnerships are essential for LDCs in order to fully benefit from the catalytic impact that ICTs can have in creating economic growth and efficiency across all socio-economic services and sectors. It is imperative to leverage ICT for development (ICT4D) to drive the development of the LDCs for building viable productive capacities. Achieving this goal will require concerted efforts, as well as forging smart partnerships for the implementation of the Special Programme for LDCs. Multilateral organizations and the private sector can help make a difference by accelerating the pace of telecommunication development in LDCs—This is an area on which ITU is working tirelessly to achieve tangible results for the benefits of the LDCs. Best practices and lessons learned for enhanced inter-agency collaboration can include many ITU’s achievements in the LDCs resulted from public-private partnerships.

**ITC**: Improving the international competitiveness of SMEs from LDCs is ITC’s raison d’être. The support ITC provides includes sharing knowledge, building productive capacity and implementing integrated solutions to help LDCs use trade as an engine for sustainable growth and jobs. ITC’s main focus is to facilitate SME success in international business. Having worked with SMEs for 50 years, ITC is familiar with the unique needs of SMEs, including women-owned enterprises, and has vast experience in improving their international competitiveness and connecting them with markets.

ITC works to boost SME competitiveness and supply capacity by improving supply chain management, as well as marketing and branding. ITC also provides training and advisory services to improve production methodologies that help boosting productivity. It helps companies tap into international markets by facilitating business contacts and by enabling them to comply with standards and technical regulations. It also brings together public and private sector actors to jointly contribute to a conducive business environment. ITC also works with the private sector to support its capacity as buyers, investors, and providers of technical assistance.

**UNDP**: In the context of the African Facility for Inclusive markets initiatives, UNDP have set up projects to promote private sector led growth. For example, Tanzania has experienced strong economic growth, yet the lack of capacity within many burgeoning enterprises hinders the
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sustainability of these growth rates. Some existing barriers towards this achievement lie in identifying and attracting competent managers, while systemic inadequate training leads to low quality product output. To enhance companies’ management and technical proficiency, UNDP’s Project African Training Management Services (ATMS), in partnership with the African Management Service Company (AMSCO), collaborated with Sadolin Paints and AAR Health Insurance to support them in capacity development. Overall, this partnership helped generate 4,838 new jobs in Tanzania, and microfinance institutions were able to approve over 37,000 new loans to Tanzanian businesses.

**IFAD**: IFAD’s approach in support to smallholder and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) focuses on inclusive value chains and builds on IFAD’s Public-Private-Producers Partnership (PPPP) model. Besides working with governments to support enabling policy environments and public investments in infrastructure and other public goods, IFAD acts as an honest broker by promoting win-win relationships between small-scale producers and other enterprises that make up the local private sector, buyers, input suppliers, Micro-finance institutions (MFIs) and commercial banks.

In addition, in many countries IFAD works with governments to build the capacity of local MFIs and link them to formal commercial banks in order to enhance the accessibility of financial services for poor rural people and enable them to raise their productivity as farmers and operate as MSMEs.

For example, in Ethiopia IFAD has focused on rural savings and credit cooperatives and MFIs as the only institutions in the country with a capacity to provide financial products targeted to the needs of smallholders in remote rural areas. IFAD’s approach has combined institutional capacity-building, improvement of regulation and a credit line to address the liquidity gaps of these institutions.

**UNCDF**’s work on inclusive finance engages with a range of country-based institutions to develop inclusive financial systems and to ensure that a range of financial products is available to all segments of society, at a reasonable cost, and on a sustainable basis. UNCDF supports a wide range of private sector providers (such as microfinance institutions, banks, cooperatives, money transfer companies) and a variety of financial products and services (such as savings, credit, insurance, payments, and remittances). UNCDF also supports newer delivery channels (such as mobile phone networks) that offer relevant potential for scale. UNCDF’S work in inclusive finance continues to build on its success in mobilizing money ‘out of the mattresses’ (or ‘sleeping capital’), providing poor people a safe place to save, while also intermediating funding for micro, small and medium enterprises-size enterprises to invest in the real economy of their countries.

For instance, MicroLead supports the expansion of Financial Service Providers (FSP) which pursue a savings-led approach in the belief that savings will allow low-income populations to take control of their complicated financial lives. In particular, Microlead seeks to respond to the rural vacuum of services in LDCs. It provides an excellent example of how UNCDF leverages its funding to catalyse domestic savings: with an initial core contribution of USD 5 Million, UNCDF mobilized USD 20 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch MicroLead. UNCDF invested the funds in FSPs from the South who brought about USD 100 million of their own equity to fund their expansion in LDCs. After 5 years of operations, these FSPs combined to reach over one million depositors, with loan and saving balances of USD 450 Million. The MicroLead Expansion programme is now halfway through implementation working with a variety of providers with targets to reach an additional 1.3 million clients and mobilize $190 million in deposits while moving further into rural markets.
MicroLead/MicroLead Expansion was implemented in Bhutan, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Lao-PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra-Leone, Solomon-Islands, South Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Vanuatu.

In addition, by providing technical and financial support at the local level for infrastructure, UNCDF helps to improve the capacities of private sector. Improving the offer of roads, bridges, dams, electricity, investing in markets and economic infrastructure helps local economies and open new opportunities for women, young and men. For example, UNCDF has invested more than $10 million in basic services and infrastructure through local governments to test innovative financing through the Local Development Fund (LDF) mechanism, often enhanced through performance-based grants and operational expenditure block grants. The largest investments were in Somalia ($3,634,015), Bangladesh ($2,140,000) and Mali ($1,737,906). In Somalia – where UNCDF works with UNDP, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery – more than half of all investments were made in transport infrastructure, thereby improving access to markets and helping local economies grow. This programme also stands out for the proportion of projects it has implemented using public-private partnerships, through which almost one fifth of all investments were made.

ESCAP has started to implement a UNDA project on building the capacity of Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar in engaging the private sector in infrastructure development. The project aims to support these countries design, develop and manage PPP projects.

WFP has made a significant process towards supporting local food systems and markets, nutrition-sensitive programming, and taking a more holistic food systems/value chain approach. In 2008, WFP started to pilot the Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, which has enabled WFP to experiment with new ways of leveraging its purchasing power to support agricultural and market development in 20 diverse countries. Through P4P, WFP has worked to put smallholders at the heart of quality staple food value chains. WFP has now committed to scale up its pro-smallholder purchasing to 10% of its annual US$ 1.2 billion procurement with a commercial offshoot of the P4P pilot - the Patient Procurement Platform (PPP) - by using WFP demand as a catalyst and more importantly, leveraging the scale and sustainability of the private sector. PPP builds on WFP’s earlier work through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative. The new initiative takes that experience a step further, beyond spot contracts to longer-term deals made before planting. It also aims at broadening the approach to include other commercial produce buyers. The initiative works with a variety of public and private sector partners, including financial institutions that can provide loans, crop insurance and other financial services. An essential aspect of the Patient Procurement Platform is to obtain demand at scale through key private sector actors - buyers, input providers, financial institutions. The correct mix of actors will not only ensure scale, but achieving scale also lowers transaction costs, reduces risks and leads to profitability.

Another example of WFP’s work in which it support the private sector is its partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). The ultimate goal of the partnership is a sustainable, market-based solution to undernutrition in East Africa where SuperCereal Plus, an effective complementary food for young children, is affordable and readily available on the market for all population groups including the most vulnerable families in Ethiopia and Rwanda. The partnership also supports the
governments to integrate this specialized nutritious food into their national safety net programmes that target the poorest households.

The governments of Rwanda and Ethiopia, along with the private sector, are investing in establishing three factories to produce quality Super Cereal Plus in East/ Central African markets. WFP will act as a catalyst till the factories reach commercial viability, purchasing 75,000 MT of Super Cereal Plus per year (25,000MT/ factory), starting in July 2015 for five years, subject to funding. Each of the factories will have the capacity to produce up to 100,000 MT. The recipient countries will be Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The economic feasibility of the business model is made possible through WFP’s initial purchase and, eventually over time, through the development of commercial markets locally, regionally and abroad. WFP’s demand of 75,000 MT per year will be an all-important catalyst to initiate the US$150 million investment required for the three factories. Over time (between 3 to 5 years), revenues from sales to urban and export markets will substitute for the revenues generated in the initial years from WFP purchases, making the business commercially viable and sustainable.

By establishing three large scale, globally competitive, food processing companies in Africa, there are clear opportunities to create jobs, stimulate the local market and generate export opportunities that will add value to locally produced agricultural goods and provide much needed sources of foreign exchange.

The three factories will also generate backward linkages to benefit 100,000 smallholder farmers to engage in the formal market system and supply locally produced maize and soya beans to the factories. WFP’s ongoing Purchase for Progress (P4P) and WFP’s new Patient Procurement Platform (PPP) will feed into this initiative and the raw ingredients needed for the Super Cereal Plus will be sourced from local P4P farmers wherever possible.

**World Bank:** The Bank’s private sector arm IFC and its political risk insurance arm MIGA are ramping up their efforts to leverage private sector investment and create more jobs and economic opportunities for the poor. This year, IFC provided more than $22 billion in financing for private sector development, about $5 billion of which was mobilized from investment partners. MIGA issued $3.2 billion in political risk and credit enhancement guarantees underpinning investments, including those in transformational projects.

**B. Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security and Rural Development**

**Context:** The agriculture sector, which plays a crucial role in almost all LDCs, both in promoting food security and as the major economic activity for much of the population, faces huge challenges. These stem from a lack of adequate investment in physical infrastructure, scientific and technological development, research and agricultural extensions services, as well as from the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, desertification, and other challenges. New investments are required in regional and national agricultural and fishery research and rural infrastructure, extension of better farming and fishing practices and innovative and sustainable technologies, as well
as marketing advice, structured and effective finance and greater tenure security, including access to and control over land by female farmers irrespective of their marital status.

The LDCs are home to 30 percent of the global population living with hunger, while accounting for only 12 percent of the world population.  

Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

(a) Make substantial progress towards eradicating hunger by 2020;
(b) Substantially increase investment in rural infrastructure;
(c) Ensure access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all least developed countries.

Questions:

Does your organization provide enhanced financial and/or technical support to LDCs for the development of the agricultural sector?

OSAA, OSSC, OPS, ESCAP, WFP, HABITAT, UNEP, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNCDF, ODC, UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, WTO, EIF, ILO, WIPO, WMO, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

B.1 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1) Does your organization support efforts aimed at increasing agricultural production and productivity?

FAO, ITU, ODC, WIPO, ILO, WMO, ESCAP, ESCWA, OSAA, OSSC, WFP, HABITAT, UNEP, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNCDF, UNCTAD, CFC, EIF, OPS, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

2) Does your organization support the efforts of LDCs to establish or strengthen safety nets such as access to agricultural finance, insurance and other risk-mitigation tools?

FAO, ITU, ODC, UNDP, EIF, ILO, WMO, CFC, OSSC, WFP, UN WOMEN, World Bank, IFAD, UNCDF

3) Does your organization provide food assistance and safety net programmes to address hunger and malnutrition, based on needs?

FAO, ITU, ODC, ILO, ESCAP, WFP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNDP, World Bank

4) Does your organization provide support to the efforts of LDCs to establish or strengthen agricultural and/or marine research and development institutions?

FAO, ITU, ODC, UNESCO, WMO, HABITAT, UNEP, UN WOMEN, ESCAP, UNCTAD, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

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4 2014 figures, source A/70/83-E/2015/75.
5) Does your organization support efforts to provide and support LDCs with high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties, including saline-, drought-, and submersion-compatible species, including through the transfer of appropriate technology and technical know-how?

FAO, ITU, ODC, ILO, UNDP, UN WOMEN, OSSC, CFC, WMO, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

6) Does your organization support LDCs to establish and upgrade their own national testing and certification institutions and support the participation of LDCs in regional and global standard-setting?

FAO, ITU, ODC, UNESCO, UNIDO, WTO, EIF, WMO, ESCAP, UNDP, CFC, UNCTAD, World Bank

7) Does your organization support LDCs’ national, regional and international agricultural and fishery research institutions, help build capacities in tropical agricultural technologies and strengthen agricultural knowledge and information systems supported by agricultural extension services?

FAO, ITU, ODC, WIPO, EIF, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UN WOMEN, ESCAP, HABITAT, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

Selected activities in the areas of food and nutrition security, and rural development

Investments to raise agricultural productivity and resilience, especially for small-holder farmers (World Bank)

Provision of seed money to develop projects/programmes and facilitate fund mobilization: Booster Fund to finance partnerships for food security and climate resilience and to support agriculture finance to reach smallholder farmers (UNCDF)

Grant schemes for agriculture (EIF, food-and cash for assets, WTO on trade and investment aspects)

Provision of aid: food (WFP), cash transfers (UNICEF, WFP)

Strategies and plans (rural development, social protection (ILO, WFP), land rights (ECA), emergency relief, resilience building and safety net programmes for food security and nutrition (WFP)

Nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes (WFP) Development of agro-tourism and ecotourism in rural areas, bringing value added to the primary agricultural activity to farmers (UNWTO)

Innovations for Climate Resilience (WFP)

Development and implementation of stand-alone projects (construction and rehabilitation of rural roads and markets (OPS, WFP), demining (OPS), rural infrastructure for wells, water catchment areas and water distribution (OPS, WFP), drought resistant seeds (UNDP), infrastructure development and
market access (UNIDO, WFP), improving food security for poppy growing families (ODC), strengthening, developing and intensifying urban and peri-urban agriculture and forestry (UN Habitat)

Advisory services and policy advice (poverty reduction and growth impediments linked to agricultural development (IMF, UNDP, WFP), mainstreaming land policy and governance issues, food security, assessments of impacts of trade-related policies in the agricultural sector (UNEP)

Organization of global forums, conferences, EGMs and workshops (FAO on improved crop productivity, UNDP on standards for products)

Capacity building and training: land rights and planning (ECA), food security and nutrition (FAO/WFP), technology transfer: agro-technologies (OSSC) greenhouse production (EIF), use of radiation technology for food and agriculture, crop productivity, better soil and water management and pest control (IAEA/FAO)

Advocacy and outreach: rural development, land rights, governance, mainstreaming land in national agricultural investments, social dialogue (ILO, ECA, Habitat)

PPP: Green Commodities Programme (UNEP), Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (World Bank)

Knowledge platforms (weather and climate related (WMO, WFP) on food prices and policy (FAO), vulnerability assessments (WFP), knowledge centres (ODC) Knowledge dissemination (organic agriculture (UNCTAD, UNEP)

Publications/manuals (UNCTAD’s LDC Report 2015 on “transforming rural economies”, NEPAD progress reports on comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (ECA), fisheries and aquaculture emergency response guidelines (FAO)

Standards and Trade Development Facility, Food standards (FAO)

Data and statistics (UNICEF, FAO, WFP)

**FAO**: has been helping the Government of Bangladesh to formulate and implement a comprehensive national Food Policy and a Country Investment Plan (CIP) for agriculture, food security and nutrition. The CIP (2011-2015) has been instrumental to mobilize additional resources to pursue the higher-level goal of improving nutrition status of its population in the face of climate change and scarce natural resources (soils and water). The tool is also used to coordinate and harmonize investments by various partners, align external finances (loans and grants) and as a basis for annual monitoring as an accountability mechanism to assess progress. The CIP was developed in the wake of the 2008 food price crisis and greatly benefited from the UN Secretary General High Level Task Force (HLTF) support, which enabled the entire UN country team to support the CIP process. By providing its technical support, FAO was acting as a catalyzer on behalf of the entire UN system. This was an excellent example of inter-agency collaboration, with various agencies bringing their respective areas of expertise, e.g. UNICEF on nutrition issues, WFP on safety nets and food distribution programs, etc.
IFAD: The agricultural sector is not only the most important for rural poverty reduction; it is also of critical importance to the economies of many developing countries, which depend above all on agricultural commodities as the main source of export earnings. Around 70 per cent of the population of LDCs live in rural areas, and most depend on small-scale agriculture for their lives and livelihoods. In recent years, soaring food prices have had negative short-run effects on developing countries that depend on imports for their food security and where the vast majority of households are net food buyers. Given its mandate, in all its operations IFAD invests in agriculture and rural development.

In addition, IFAD also supports research to increase productivity and crop diversification. For example, realizing that cassava is one of the most important sources of food energy in the drier areas of the developing world and it has an outstanding performance under harsh conditions of climate and soil, IFAD is supporting applied research on post-harvest technology to open avenues for cash income generation through a whole new range of highly marketable cassava products.

WFP: In 2014, working with over 1,100 non-governmental organizations, WFP’s emergency operations, protracted relief and recovery operations, and development activities provided direct food assistance to some 80 million of the world’s most vulnerable people in 82 countries. This included 47.9 million people in 39 LDCs, with direct expenses totalling USD 2.2 billion (55% of total direct expenses). But WFP’s food assistance has positive effects for many more people. This support is difficult to quantify in terms of beneficiary figures: technical assistance for designing a national school feeding programme, for example, can ultimately benefit millions of children. Innovative technologies that improve the efficiency of public distribution systems, projects supporting local production of supplementary foods and knowledge transfers to improve food security analysis are examples of WFP’s support that cannot be quantified in terms of beneficiaries of direct food assistance transfers. The impact of WFP’s work clearly extends beyond the number of people receiving direct assistance, and it is reflected in the increasing demand from host governments for technical assistance to develop food-security and nutrition policies and national safety-net programmes, and to increase capacities in ministries to implement them.

WFP is a leader in developing and delivering large scale innovations that help people at risk of hunger to build their resilience and to adapt to climate disasters and change. These innovations help communities who are the most food insecure, most at risk and with the least capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related disasters so that they can become food secure and thrive under a changing climate. We work with governments, international partners and communities.

In addition, WFP supports innovative food assistance tools including food- and cash-for-assets programmes and support to government safety nets targeting the most vulnerable and use food assistance as an instrument to build productive assets. Productive assets and better land management techniques help households and communities enhance their own food security and become more resilient. WFP also provides governments and other partners with vulnerability and analysis mapping to identify the underlying causes of hunger and food insecurity as well as technical support for policy development in order to effectively address them.

Through Purchase for Progress (P4P), WFP is working with the governments of 14 LDCs and partners with other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private
sector to reduce post-harvest losses and promote economic opportunity and agricultural productivity gains by procuring commodities and specialized nutritious foods locally and regionally whenever feasible, including from smallholder farmers and warehouse receipt systems. For example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the P4P programme, jointly implemented with FAO, focuses on reviving agricultural markets damaged by years of mismanagement, disruption and armed conflict.

WFP supports and implements safety nets to ensure that adequate food is available to vulnerable people at critical times. In particular, WFP food assistance helps mitigating transitory food insecurity and preventing deterioration of the nutrition status of vulnerable people, especially during the agricultural lean seasons. In many LDCs, households headed by women are often more food-insecure than those headed by men: to address gender gaps in access to food and to ensure that the most vulnerable people were reached, WFP adapted its safety-net programmes to local contexts.

FAO, IFAD and WFP are collaborating under a new and innovative joint project to reduce food losses through a new global Community of Practice on food loss reduction and working in three African Countries; Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda.

**ILO:** Striving to unleash the potential of agriculture on a sustainable basis, the German government—together with Deutsche Bank and KfW—established the Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF) in 2011. The Fund is an innovative public-private partnership dedicated to uplifting Africa’s agricultural potential for the benefit of the poor. It aims to improve food security and provide additional employment and income to farmers, entrepreneurs and laborers alike by investing patiently and responsibly in efficient local value chains.

The ILO has joined forces with the AATIF in a range of LDCs, including Burundi and Zambia aiming to develop a methodology to assess the social and environmental risk of investments in agriculture in Africa. In Zambia, the AATIF fund supports investment in modern irrigation systems to ensure production in the dry season. In order to comply with the social safeguard requirements of the fund, the project committed to pay at least minimum wage to employees, adjust registration forms in order to be able to identify minors, ensure schooling of farm children by expanding school buildings, providing transportation between the farm and school, improve the occupational health and safety management system and provide treated mosquito nets for farm workers and their families living on the farm. Gender-sensitive training materials have been developed to this end to build capacities in reinforcing social compliance in agricultural investments. The materials are targeted not towards one particular country, but rather towards agricultural finance stakeholders who wish to invest in Africa. In this work the ILO has also strengthened its ties with UNEP.

**UN-Habitat** collaborated with the Resource Centers on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RIIAF) Foundation on a pilot project to integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture in the city climate change and urban development strategies of three cities: Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Kesbewa (Sri Lanka). Urban agriculture, when planned and managed properly, can contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts by lowering the ecological footprint associated with food production and by increasing vegetation cover and reducing surface water run-off, while at the same time conserving biodiversity. The activity aimed also at enhancing the supply of locally produced food and thus reduces the community's dependency on food imports, improving
urban food security and generating income and job creation. At the same time it sought to enhance
the collaboration between local governments and stakeholders involved in horticulture, livestock,
agro-forestry and aquaculture. The activity’s co-benefits include the greening of urban spaces.

**UNEP:** UNEP and FAO signed an MOU in September 2014 to collaborate on the following overarching
priorities: i) Sustainable Food Systems, ii) Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries, iii) Data and Statistics, iv) International Legal Instruments, Legislation and
Regulatory Matters.

**UNIDO:** Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro- industries Development Initiative (3 ADI): The 3 ADI is
a joint Initiative between the FAO, IFAD and UNIDO which aims at enhancing countries' resource
based comparative advantages through the implementation of competitive agro value chains. The
3ADI contributes to infrastructure development and market access (e.g. boosting export capacities
while reducing reliance on commodities). For instance, in Uganda, through the “Resilience Building
through Banana Value Addition” project (USD 10,934,933) UNIDO is strengthening local
communities’ capacities to engage in the production of processed goods for exports. In addition, in
Mali, the Shea Butter value chain project funded by the government of Luxembourg (Euros
1,000,000) addressed infrastructure obsolescence and high transport costs by facilitating market
access and developing competitiveness. In term of activities, 1,000 women across 100 of the poorest
villages have seen their livelihood increase and the Dioila’s Women Cooperative has been created
through UNIDO’s support. Moreover, the Cooperative has supplied the French cosmetics company
Chimitex with around 140 tons of shea butter soap. In the same line, in Ethiopia, UNIDO and the
OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) supported the implementation of the Beles value
chain project (USD 600,000). Consequently, UNIDO provided technical assistance to farming
communities to increase production of high value goods for exports.

Farm to Fork traceability to facilitate seafood exports- Bangladesh: Recognizing traceability
challenges, UNIDO, in cooperation with the EU, has developed Bangladesh national capacity to set up
a traceability system which will reassure buyers and ensure the industry’s continued access to key
export markets, especially with the EU. In cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC),
UNIDO has introduced its ‘Better Work and Standards Programme (BEST) - Better Fisheries Quality
(BFQ)’ through a project amounting to EUR 13,525,000. The project allowed the operationalization of
a full traceability process along the whole supply chain from “farm to fork”, coupled with
improvements in testing, inspection and hygienic practices, not only to ensure the Bangladesh
seafood industry’s continued international market access but also assures food quality and safety for
both export and local consumers. Furthermore, 30 testing laboratories have been set up and several
hundred officers and farmers trained on Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) and Hazard analysis
critical control points (HACCP). It is worth mentioning that the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters
Association mainly composed of small holders has seen its capacities strengthen.

**UNDP:** The Inclusive markets in Agriculture and Trade in Uganda programme financed by UNDP
contributes to the objectives of Uganda’s Agriculture development strategy and Investment Plan,
particularly to increase market access and value addition for products. The project has helped small
farmers to organize, improve their productivity and quality of products, and connect to markets.
Based on careful value chain analyses and the assessment of a number of indicators, including the
market potential and inclusiveness of the poor, three commodities were chosen: rice, beans and cassava. The programme facilitates access to good quality seeds to plant. Equator Seeds Limited, one of the leading seed companies in Uganda, is fully engaged in the production, processing and marketing of quality seeds and other related agro inputs. Through capacity building, farmers are taught good agricultural practices targeted at production, all the way up to post harvest handling practices to ensure that whatever they produce is of good quality and guaranteed a premium price. The supply contracts signed by farmers with Equator Seeds Ltd, which secure an outlet for their produce, are being used as guarantee by farmers to access financing through banks and other financial institutions.

**ESCAP** provides technical support, advisory services and capacity building activities to LDCs in order to streamline the procedures and documents required for trade in agricultural products. The agricultural trade facilitation component seeks to support LDCs to enhance the exportability and marketability of their agricultural export products and build the capacity of LDCs to adopt international standards for agrifood trade. This is achieved by training stakeholders from Ministries of Agriculture and Ministries of Commerce in LDCs to be able to conduct Business Process Analysis studies, in order understand the bottlenecks in their agricultural supply chain. Through training workshops and the development guidelines/manuals, ESCAP also seeks build the capacity of LDCs to implement paperless systems which will enhance the efficiency of agricultural trade. Within its Work programme 2014-2015, SG’s Zero Hunger Challenge campaign. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (E/RES/2014/29), and ESCAP Resolution 71/2, and its commitment to strengthen institutional and capacity-building to improve resilience to exogenous shocks and to enhance energy and food security, ESCAP is planning to implement the following activity: Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Food Security in South Asia will take place in Kathmandu in the Quarter 4, 2015. The objective is to come up with a policy agenda on regional cooperation to strengthen alarming levels of food insecurity in South Asia.

**UNCDF:** In order to capitalize on the lessons learned UNCDF is launching in 2015 a global programme on food security called “Finance for Food”, which acknowledges the need expressed by local authorities for an improved mechanism for financing food security at the local level using a Local Food Systems (LFS) approach that addresses food security problems by looking at its institutional and economic context before identifying gaps in public and private investments. In addition, using intergovernmental fiscal transfers and other sources of public and private finance, UNCDF’s Local Development Fund earmarks funds for food security to be channeled from the national to the local level. The funds are invested in productive enterprises and local infrastructure to help improve local resilience to food shocks. These include investments in micro-dams, production facilities, roads, storage facilities and irrigation infrastructure.

**EIF:** The EIF funds projects in LDCs. More than half of the all these projects are focused on support related to the development of the agriculture sector and related value addition.

**World Bank:** To help countries meet food and nutrition needs and raise the incomes of small-holder farmers, the World Bank Group is expanding its support to agriculture and related sectors reaching $8-$10 billion during 2013-15. The predominant focus is on raising agricultural productivity and resilience, especially for small-holder farmers, and better linking these farmers to markets. Additional emphasis is being given to the areas of climate-smart agriculture, private sector
responses, longer-term management, gender mainstreaming, nutrition, and landscape approaches. The World Bank also coordinates the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, a global partnership supporting long-term, country-led agriculture and food-security plans and helping to promote investments, especially for small-holder farmers.

**IAEA:** The IAEA complements the work of other UN agencies directly mandated with improving food security and nutrition, where radiation technologies may have an application. In this regard, the IAEA together with FAO (through the joint FAO/IAEA Division) provides support to LDCs in food and agriculture, supports national goals aimed at enhancing crop productivity, better soil and water management as well as pest control.

In the majority of LDCs, national expertise and infrastructure for the use of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture are being established. Major areas covered under the programme in this sector continue to be: controlling major insect pests that threaten food crops and spread disease; improving livestock production and health; improving soil and water management in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, and enhancing food and biofuel production; developing new varieties of crops, and supporting research in areas of biotechnology and plant breeding; upgrading laboratory management and quality control for food and agricultural production; analyzing foods for contaminants in the interest of public health as well as food safety and quality; and to facilitate national compliance with international standards for food exports.

A regional project entitled "Supporting Innovative Conservation Agriculture Practices to Combat Land Degradation and Enhance Soil Productivity for Improved Food Security" was launched to enhance the use of nuclear techniques for assessing soil erosion and soil redistribution processes and testing the efficiency of innovative soil conservation methods in Africa. Five LDCs participate in this regional project, namely Benin, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal and Uganda.

A regional project entitled "Enhancing Crop Nutrition and Soil and Water Management and Technology Transfer in Irrigated Systems for Increased Food Production and Income Generation" was launched to strengthen the use of nuclear techniques for quantifying efficiency of water and nitrogen use under different irrigated cropping systems. Ten LDCs participate in this regional AFRA project, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

A national TC project in Myanmar, “Supporting the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programme” is increasing productivity in the livestock sector by implementing sustainable strategies to control and eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

**C. Trade**

**Context:** Trade has an important role in ensuring the sustainable economic development of LDCs. As at 2011, when the IPoA was adopted, the collective share in international trade of LDCs was at just over 1 per cent of world merchandise trade, and was highly concentrated on a few export products, half of which flow to developing countries. LDCs, with support from their development partners, should address supply-side constraints by enhancing productive capacities and reducing constraints.
on the private sector, as well as building and diversifying their export base. It is essential to seriously work towards creating favorable market access conditions for all products originating in LDCs, including through the reduction or elimination of arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers and other trade-distorting measures. Regional cooperation, including through regional trade integration and other arrangements, can facilitate LDCs’ development and their beneficial integration into the world economy by, inter alia, increasing the size of markets, improving their competitiveness and enhancing regional connectivity.

At the Ninth Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Bali in December 2013, WTO members reaffirmed their commitment to duty-free, quota-free market access for LDCs. WTO also agreed on the operationalization of the 15-year service waiver and the principle that the new Aid for Trade work programme should be informed by the post-2015 development agenda. WTO members also reached agreement on trade facilitation that may benefit the LDCs.

Significant progress has been made in the period 2013-2014 on issues of interest to LDCs, including in the context of the commencement of work on implementation of the LDC Decisions taken at the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference. In line with the WTO’s Hong Kong Ministerial DFQF Decision, most developed Members today provide the required 97% access to the LDCs. Developing countries have also taken concrete steps to incrementally improve market access opportunities for LDC exports and a number of them have notified their LDC schemes to the WTO providing greater transparency. As a result, product exclusions from duty-free access have narrowed down significantly.

In the area of Rules of Origin, as mandated by the Bali Decision, Members have started discussions on Preferential Rules of Origin in the Committee on Rules of Origin. It is hoped that more Members will be forthcoming with submissions that can form the basis of these discussions, thereby creating inroads into improving Preferential Rules of Origin.

On the services waiver, Members have already held the Bali mandated High-Level Meeting at which indications were made to LDCs of the sectors and modes of supply in which such Members will be willing to grant LDCs preferential market access to LDC services and service suppliers. Continued discussions on these issues, including the submissions of notifications linked herewith, will assist LDCs to better prepare themselves to take advantage of preferential market access in the area of services trade.

On cotton, there has been sustained momentum in addressing the development aspects of cotton, including through continued engagement by the Director-General in his Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton. This has been important in keeping donor engagement active on the sector.

In the area of intellectual property, WTO Members extended the transition period for LDCs until 1 January 2021 to protect intellectual property under the WTO’s TRIPS Agreement. This is in recognition of their special requirements, especially their economic, financial and administrative constraints and the need for flexibility so that they can create a viable technological base.

The obligations for developed countries to provide incentives for technology transfer are in Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement. In addition, a decision adopted by Members in 2003 asks the developed countries to supply information on how their incentives are functioning in practice. WTO organizes
annual workshops involving developed countries and LDCs to discuss the reports submitted by Members pursuant to the 2003 decision, thus helping LDCs to understand the various actions taken by developed countries to promote technology transfer to LDCs.

With respect to Aid for Trade, efforts are ongoing to enhance the share of assistance to LDCs. The Fifth Global Review, on the theme of reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth, provided an opportunity to keep a spotlight on this.

The SPS Market Access Prioritization guide, developed by the STDF, aims to help countries prioritize different SPS investment options linking them to trade impacts, based on MCDA, and seeks to clarify the costs and returns of investments in SPS capacity building. Promising results have been achieved in the application of the MCDA in the area of SPS in various LDCs notably in terms of: (i) setting priorities among various SPS capacity-building needs for market access; (ii) raising awareness about the importance of investing in SPS capacity; and (iii) contributing to enhanced dialogue (public-public and public-private) on SPS capacity building at the country level.

The EIF is assisting 37 LDCs in the development and strengthening of trade coordination and support mechanisms. This has resulted in an increased national and political consideration of trade as a tool for development. 78% of EIF LDCs report that trade is included in the National Development Plan. Nineteen (19) countries (up from eight in 2009) have up-to-date trade strategies in place, with an increase both in their quality and reported implementation.

DTISs have become an important tool in setting LDCs trade agenda as linked to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)/national development plans and in determining the direction of Aid for Trade at country level. In 2013, 90% of EIF Tier 1 countries reported two or more projects related to the DTIS Action Matrix, as opposed to only 42% of the same group in 2009.

As a mechanism for building trade capacity of LDCs, the EIF has been making a major contribution not only towards their graduation but also to facilitate a smooth transition from LDC status. DTISs identify sources of growth and propose reform measures for LDCs to take full advantage of trade opportunities, thus contributing to the “income pillar”. The EIF also contributes to the “vulnerability pillar” of the graduation indicators through two sub-indices, namely, through the reduction of merchandise export concentration and by alleviating instability of exports of goods and services.

Through its Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects the EIF is supporting LDCs in advancing their delivery in many of the key priority areas of the IPOA such as: productive capacity development, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building, and good governance at all levels.

**Goals and targets of the IPOA:**

(a) Significantly increase the share of LDCs’ trade in global trade with the aim of doubling the share of LDCs’ exports in global exports by 2020, including by broadening LDCs’ export base;

(b) Make substantial efforts for an early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations with an ambitious, comprehensive, balanced and development-oriented outcome.
Questions:

Does your organization provide assistance in increasing the share and broadening the base of LDCs' exports with the aim of doubling their share of exports in global exports by 2020?

UNIDO, WTO, EIF, ITU, FAO, ITU, WMO, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNWTO, UNEP, OPS, ESCWA, ESCAP, OSAA, OSSC, UNCTAD, World Bank, DESA

C 1. TRADE

1. Does your organization support the efforts of LDCs to strengthen their human, institutional and regulatory capacities in trade policy and trade negotiations in areas such as market entry and access, tariffs, customs, competition, investment and technology, and regional integration?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, ILO, WIPO, WTO, EIF, ITC, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCDF, OPS, World Bank, DESA, ICAO

2. Does your organization provide technical and/or financial support to national and regional projects that are aimed at increasing the productivity, competitiveness and diversification of LDC economies, including through strengthening the capacity of their trade in goods and services and of LDCs’ firms to integrate into international value chains?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, ILO, WIPO, EIF, ITC, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCDF, OPS, World Bank

3. Does your organization provide financial and/or technical support aimed at the diversification of LDC economies while providing financial and technical assistance through appropriate delivery mechanisms to meet their implementation obligations, including fulfilling Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade requirements, and to assist them in managing their adjustment processes, including those necessary to face the results of most favoured nation multilateral trade liberalization?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, WIPO, WTO, EIF, WMO, UNDP, UN WOMEN, UNWTO, World Bank, DESA

4. Does your organization assist in ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are simple, transparent and predictable and contribute to facilitating market access?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, WTO, ITC, WFP, CFC, IPU

5. Does your organization assist in the implementation of effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building to LDCs on a priority basis, including by enhancing the share of assistance to LDCs for Aid for Trade and support for the Enhanced Integrated
Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs

Framework, as appropriate, and strengthening their capacity to access available resources?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, ILO, WTO, EIF, ITC, IMF, UNDP, UNWTO, UNWOMEN, OPS, OSSC, World Bank

6. Does your organization support the provision of incentives to enterprises and institutions in developed countries to promote and encourage technology transfer to LDCs to enable them to create a sound and viable technological bases?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, WIPO, WMO, WTO, EIF, UNWOMEN, OSSC

7. Does your organization support LDCs’ efforts in promoting subregional and regional cooperation, including export promotion and improving regional connectivity through trade-facilitating measures, such as joint projects on customs and border procedures and insofar as possible, transport infrastructure and linkages, telecommunications facilities and energy?

UNCTAD, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, ESCAP, ESCWA, WTO, ITC, WMO, UNDP, UNWTO, WFP, HABITAT, UNWOMEN, OPS, OSAA, OSSC, World Bank

Selected activities in the area of trade

Support to trade capacity infrastructure (UNIDO), trade and export capacity building through tourism (UNIDO, UNWTO), policy advice and technical assistance on rules of origin (UNCTAD), on weather/climate related aspects of trade (WMO), on protection of women informal cross-border traders (UN Women)

Studies for capacity building to implement policies for diversification of economies (OSAA), on trade and gender (UNCTAD)

Export Diversification toolkit (IMF), Investment Policy Reviews (UNCTAD), Balance of payment statistics (IMF),

Data harmonization and provision (including on balance of payments and directions of trade) (IMF)

Special and differential treatment flexibilities for LDCs in rules (WTO)

Capacity building on trade negotiations and A4T (ECA), market access and fisheries trade (FAO), non-tariff measures (UNCTAD), workshop on mainstreaming trade into national policies (UNCTAD)

Advisory services and training workshops on Bali package (ESCWA), trade facilitation measures, capacity building and research (ESCAP), on trade negotiations with a focus on agriculture, food security and rural development (FAO), on investment treaties (UNCTAD), on women informal traders (UN Women)

Mainstreaming Standards and codes of practice, such as Codex Alimentarius and international requirements in fish safety and quality and scaling up of value-addition as well as promotion of “made in” initiatives (FAO, UNCTAD), regulations support (UNIDO)
Mainstreaming the environmental effects of macro-economic trade and financial policies, including technical assistance and policy advice, including through the Green Economy Initiative (UNEP) and National Green Export Review (UNCTAD)

Loan and grants (WB as reported by UNOPS) on customs reform, youth-to-youth grants schemes (UNIDO)

Regional integration and the development of regional trade strategies (UNDP, World Bank), support intergovernmental legislative processes in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP)

Advocacy for employment and gender-responsive trade and trade policies (UNDP), on economic diversification (OSAA), on greater market access (IPU), duty-free and quota-free (WTO)

Construction of transport and transit corridors to speed food assistance (WFP)

**DESA:** DESA is implementing a project on capacity-building for removing constraints in utilizing trade-related international support measures for LDCs. LDC-specific trade-related measures are often difficult to access due to the lack of awareness in LDCs, the complexity in the process for gaining access to these measures, and their dispersion across a range of development and trading partners. Moreover, institutional constraints are preventing LDCs from utilizing the support measures to the fullest extent. In an effort to assist LDCs in addressing these constraints, UN DESA has initiated a project with the objective of increasing institutional capacity in the governments and export sectors of LDCs to access and effectively use the trade-related support. The project focuses on identifying those LDC-specific support measures addressing the limitations affecting export growth in a number of priority exports and on evaluating existing institutional capacity constraints with respect to using those measures in selected countries. Given limited resources from national budgets and the donor community, LDCs need to prioritize which particular institutional capacity constraints should be addressed for improving access to the various support measures identified by the project. For this purpose, a priority selection mechanism based on a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) methodology has been developed by UN DESA. The CBA presents an approach to identify key institutional constraints in accessing international support measures and a methodology for prioritizing support based on information collected directly from public and private sector stakeholders. The project is also developing the so-called ePing toolkit (see pilot version at www.epingalert.org) allowing public and private sector stakeholders to retrieve information about changes in technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures of (potential) trading partners. The project is implemented in 4 pilot countries. Further details about the project can be accessed at www.un.org/ldcportal

Under a subsequent capacity-building project DESA will work with selected LDCs to collect data and information on available ISMs and the degree to which they are used in different sectors, and to use this information in impact assessment and evidence-based policies. The project will support these countries in identifying key productive sectors where ISMs and national policies could have the greatest impact to support smooth transition, and will work with government stakeholders, chambers of commerce and sector associations to develop smooth transition strategies. In addition the project will work with UN and bilateral development partners in each country to develop links with their future support to the target LDCs and promote sustainability.
**UNDP:** In the context of the EIF, UNDP’s activities concentrate on four areas. Via trade diagnostic and needs assessments, UNDP maps the current situation in a country and identifies priority sectors and policy reforms necessary to enhance trade opportunities with an impact on poverty reduction. Assistance for the formulation of diagnostic studies was provided to Cambodia, Comoros, Chad, South Sudan and Yemen in 2013-2014. UNDP helps LDCs to mainstream trade in the national development strategy, enabling the country to use trade as a means for development. Capacity assessments of trade related institutions help to identify institutional constraints that hamper trade and strategies to tackle these. Over the last two years, support on capacity assessment was provided to Malawi, Samoa, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. UNDP also assists in setting up structures to coordinate Aid for Trade assistance from bilateral and other multilateral development partners.

**ESCAP** is conducting training courses in several areas to enhance trade such as on Electronic Traceability for Agricultural Trade Facilitation and Small Holder Integration in several LDCs. ESCAP also plans the upcoming activities: Trade Capacity Development Workshop for South Asia, which will take place in New Delhi, India in Quarter 3, 2015, with the objective of increasing capacity of policy makers and trade ministry officials especially in LDCs to take advantage of opportunities arising in global and regional markets including preferential trading arrangements, and a workshop on trade and payments cooperation in South Asia that will take place in New Delhi, India, in the Quarter 4, 2015, with the objective of increasing the capacity of policymakers based on ESCAP analysis and policy advice to improve regional cooperation on trade and trade-related payments and transactions issues in South Asia.

**ITC:** IT engages in a series of activities related to connecting developing country businesses to value chains, building sustainable market linkages and delivering positive development outcomes.

ITC promotes regional economic integration in Africa in partnership with regional economic communities and the African Union. It also provide support to LDCs to design trade strategies that enable the transformative change necessary for SMEs to be more competitive internationally, facilitating growth and employment. ITC is revamping and rolling out its Value Added to Trade programme by packaging solutions to help SMEs provide a differentiated and value-added offer and address production and logistics-related difficulties in getting products to market. The solutions offered within the programme are modular in nature and are customised to suit client needs. The main elements of the programme are logistic and supply chain, export marketing, meet technical and quality requirements and foster market links.

**ICAO** actively promotes and raises the awareness of civil aviation’s role as a driver for and its contribution to the development of national economy and trade. In terms of policy making, ICAO’s continuing policy with respect to trade in service urges its Member States to “ensure internal coordination in their administrations and in particular the direct involvement of aeronautical authorities and the aviation industry in the negotiations; …promote a full understanding of the role and mandate of ICAO in developing policy guidance on economic regulation, including liberalization of international air transport...”.

**FAO** is currently developing a strategy to engage more fully with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for Trade-related Technical Assistance with a view to strengthen FAO’s capacity to mainstream trade and related policies and mechanisms into agriculture and food security strategies. FAO engages
with countries to facilitate understanding of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements, including the relevance of Codex standards as reference standards, and development of official national controls compliant with the requirements of these Agreements. This includes cross-border controls for food. With the Trade Facilitation Agreement, FAO will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders at global and country level to ensure that considerations to ensure food safety and protect consumers are

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)

EIF is a multi-donor programme, which supports LDCs to be more active players in the global trading system by helping them tackle supply-side constraints to trade. In this way, the programme works towards a wider goal of promoting economic growth and sustainable development and helping to lift more people out of poverty. The EIF’s global reach is matched by the wide range of active engagement and coordination with EIF Countries from Partner Agencies (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, WB, WTO, UNIDO, UNWTO, with UNOPS as Trust Fund Manager).

The EIF’s support to the LDCs’ trade agenda comes in the form of comprehensive projects building institutional and productive capacity. Institutional capacity-building is through funding from the EIF’s Tier 1 window; for productive capacity-building, it is through the Tier 2 window. Tier 1 ‘Support to NIAs’ projects typically include four results aiming at enhancing capacity to (1) manage the country’s trade and Aid for Trade agenda; (2) mainstreaming trade into the overall development plan; (3) coordinating support to the Aid for Trade agenda; and (4) mobilizing resources to fund priorities for trade development. Tier 2 projects address a wide variety of productive capacity fields, e.g., agri-value chains, textile/clothing value chains, tourism, trade facilitation and standards compliance.

The EIF is assisting LDCs in the development and strengthening of trade coordination and support mechanisms, providing support to ministries of commerce and trade. Through the EIF National Implementation Arrangements, the EIF develops an in-country platform that foments donor and development partner coordination.

This has resulted in an increased national and political consideration of trade as a tool for development. 78% of EIF LDCs report that trade is included in the National Development Plan (up from 56% reported in 2009). Nineteen (19) countries (up from eight in 2009) have up-to-date trade strategies in place, with an increase both in their quality and reported implementation.

Sources: WTO and enhancedif.org

taken into account when analyzing border controls.

UNCTAD organized a regional workshop on mainstreaming trade into national policies to reduce poverty in LDCs in Maseru, Lesotho, in March 2015. The workshop reviewed the national studies of the three countries in Africa to understand the mainstreaming of trade measures into national policies, and the constraints facing the countries in making trade an engine of human development.
Strategies to address these challenges were identified. Building productive capacities was identified as a critical element for mainstreaming of trade policies into poverty reduction measures.

Out of the 38 investment policy reviews (IPRs) completed by UNCTAD, 16 were prepared for LDCs. Around five-six years after the completion of an IPR, UNCTAD prepares a report that assesses the extent of the implemented recommendations. The Implementation Reports for LDCs showed good to strong implementation records, increased interest by existing investors, and increased capacity for market investment opportunities. Following the review of their investment policies by UNCTAD, most beneficiary countries recorded increases in FDI inflows.

**UNWTO** assists LDCs to develop a sustainable tourism services sector for a more inclusive growth. Tourism is a crucial growth sector for 44 of 47 LDCs. In 2014, the 49 LDCs received 24 million international tourist arrivals – nearly three times as many as a decade ago – and earned US$18 billion from international tourism. Tourism now represents 7% of LDCs’ total exports of goods and services, and for non-oil exporters, the figure stands at 10%. Tourism was one of the main contributors enabling the graduation of Cabo Verde, the Maldives and Samoa from their previous LDC status. Tourism’s cross-cutting nature and multiple links to other economic sectors positions it as an effective multiplier in global development strategies, as tourism often typically provides one of the few competitive options for developing countries to take part in the global economy. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) must clearly prioritize their needs in order to access Aid for Trade, and to mainstream their demand for Aid for Trade this assistance into their national development strategies.

The creation of the Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD) since 2011 with 8 other UN entities (ITC, UNDP, UNCTAD, WTO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNESCO) provides UNWTO the opportunity to maximize an integrated approach for the sector for LDCs.

**UNEP** seeks to identify opportunities at the crossroads of Green Economy and Trade. If we are to reverse the global decline of biodiversity, mitigate the release of greenhouse gases, halt the degradation of terrestrial ecosystems and protect our oceans, then international trade must become sustainable and responsible. Furthermore, if we are to succeed in eradicating poverty, we will need to ensure that trade benefits the poor.

When accompanied by appropriate regulation, international trade and the green economy can interact in a bi-directional, mutually beneficial way. The Green Economy transition opens up rich new opportunities for regional and global trade. For example, the global market in low-carbon and energy efficient technologies is projected to nearly triple to US$ 2.2 trillion by 2020. At the same time, the Rio+20 conference identified international trade as an engine for development, sustained economic growth and the transition to a greener economy.

**UNEP** aims to enhance synergies between green economy and trade by: informing the international debate through cutting-edge research; engaging with a wide range of non-governmental organizations, businesses, research platforms, and UN partners in implementing the Green Economy Initiative; and providing demand-driven policy advice, technical assistance and capacity-building to countries who wish to use international trade as an engine for a green economy transition.
UNEP’s trade work is vested in strong partnerships with other international organizations, and contributes to a holistic and concerted approach to challenges at the nexus of green economy and trade.

**ECA**, in collaboration with UNEP, FAO, UNDP and UNIDO, produced the fifth edition of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA-V) under the theme, achieving sustainable development in Africa through inclusive green growth. As part of the SDRA-V process, the sustainable development indicator set that was produced for the fourth edition was updated in consultation with member States, partners and other stakeholders. Primary data was collected from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda) using the updated indicator set. Additionally, case studies on inclusive green growth were conducted in four selected countries, namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco and South Africa. In addition to providing a holistic assessment of progress towards sustainable development in Africa, the report highlights the significance of promoting inclusive green growth in selected sectors (agriculture, ecosystems goods and services, energy, industry and trade) to spur green transformation in the region. In this regard, SDRA-V is expected to contribute to enhancing the capacity of member States to formulate and implement policy reforms, and to monitor progress towards green transformation.

ECA has conducted studies on the linkages between inclusive green economy policies and structural transformation in five countries across the subregions of Africa, namely; Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique, and Tunisia. Additionally, the Commission carried out questionnaire surveys on the same in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. The studies and surveys sought to analyze inclusive green economy related policies in Africa and explore the linkages to structural transformation plans, and related national development visions and strategies. The intent is to examine the role and significance of inclusive green economy policies in fostering sustainable structural transformation in Africa. The study reports and completed questionnaires formed the basis for the preparation of a synthesis report on Inclusive green economy policies and structural transformation in selected African countries. The report aims to promote understanding and the adoption of inclusive green economy policies that foster sustainable structural transformation in the region.

ECA has also produced, in collaboration with UNEP, a report on “Enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa” that examines and documents the role and significance of various enablers that could facilitate a smooth transition to an inclusive green economy in Africa, taking into account the implications of such a transition for the region. Enablers examined are policies and institutions, policy instruments, technology development and transfer, capacity development and financing. The report recognizes the role and participation of the private sector as critical, thus the mainstreaming of this aspect in all the chapters.

**D. Commodities**
**Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs**

**Context:** Many LDCs remain commodity-dependent, with a significant number relying primarily on agriculture or on the extraction of very few natural resources and primary products for export. Primary commodities in 2014 made up 77 per cent of the LDCs’ exports of goods, mirroring to a large extent the structure of the LDC production base. This situation makes LDCs vulnerable to external trade shocks owing to volatility of commodity prices, which also impacts domestic resource mobilization. There is a need for concerted measures and actions to support LDCs’ efforts to reduce commodity dependence, including through the diversification of their export base, and to mitigate and reduce the adverse effects of commodity price volatility.

**Goals and Targets of the IPoA:**

- **Broaden LDCs’ economic base in order to reduce commodity dependence.**

**Questions:**

1) Does your organization provide any form of assistance, financial or technical, to support efforts of LDCs to broaden their economic base in order to reduce commodity dependence?

   - IMF, FAO, ITU, UNIDO, EIF, ITC, UNEP, UNDP, UNWOMEN, ESCWA, ESCAP, CFC, OSAA, UNCTAD, World Bank, UNCDF

**D 1 COMMODITIES**

1) Does your organization support efforts to assist LDCs to better mitigate and manage the risks associated with the volatility of commodity prices without distorting market behavior by strengthening and expanding existing facilities, on a mutually agreed basis?

   - ITU, WMO, UNDP, ESCAP, IMF, WTO/EIF, ITC ESCWA, WFP, UN WOMEN, CFC, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD

2) Does your organization support measures by LDCs to enhance corporate transparency and accountability of all companies?

   - ILO, ITU, WMO, UNDP, ESCAP, World Bank

3) Does your organization support LDCs in strengthening their capacity to manage their natural resources, including minerals, energy and agriculture, and to diversify their commodity base, including through the transfer of technology?

   - ITU, WMO, UNDP, ESCAP, FAO, WIPO, UNIDO, EIF, UNEP, UN WOMEN, WFP, ESCWA, OSAA, CFC, UNCTAD, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

4) Does your organization support LDCs in strengthening effective marketing systems and support frameworks for small commodity producers in least developed countries?

   - ITU, WMO, UNDP, ESCAP, ILO, WIPO, FAO, UNIDO, EIF, ITC, CFC, WFP, UN WOMEN, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD
Selected activities in the area of commodities

Technical assistance and policy advice in managing natural resource wealth (IMF), in commercialization of the agricultural sector and promotion of agribusiness (FAO), in diversification along the fish value chain (FAO); vulnerability profiles, trade and development strategies, Empretec Programme (UNCTAD); on economic diversification (OSAA), vulnerability and analysis mapping (WFP), in national quality control along the supply chain (UNIDO), review of policy and regulatory frameworks to enhance corporate transparency and accountability in the mining sector (ECA), strategy for supporting sustainable and equitable management of the extractive industries (UNDP).

Capacity development and training: fish safety management programme and food safety and quality assurance (FAO), mainstreaming green economy (UNEP) and ad-hoc expert group meetings in quality and SPS standards (FAO).

Environmental capacity building and technology support for transitioning to a green economy (UNEP)

Direct project support and leveraging of finance for non-traditional export sectors (EIF)

IBRD financial products to fund development programs and manage risks related to currency, interest rates, commodity prices, and natural disasters (World Bank)

Studies: Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (EIF), Value chain analysis of international fish trade (FAO), Commodity and Development Report (UNCTAD), LDC Report (UNCTAD), Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (FAO/WFP)

Surveillance and program discussions in the context of balance of payments needs (IMF)

**EIF:** The EIF specifically aims to increase the share of, and diversification in, non-oil trade in LDCs. The EIF also aims to increase employment in non-traditional export sectors. This is done both through analysis in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and through direct project support and the leveraging of additional finance to support these initiatives.

The IMF developed new macro-fiscal frameworks and policy analysis tools for Resource Rich Developing Countries (RRDCs) that could enhance Fund policy advice in its policy paper *Macroeconomic Policy Framework for Resource-Rich Developing Countries.* The paper puts forward five key innovations: a fiscal sustainability framework that accounts for the growth- and revenue enhancing impact of public investment; a sustainable investment tool for RRDCs to analyze the fiscal and macroeconomic implications of saving/investment scaling up scenarios; a set of proposed fiscal indicators for RRDC staff reports to measure the savings from and use (consumption or investment) of resource flows; a new toolkit for designing fiscal rules that smooth revenue volatility and assess long-term fiscal sustainability; and a framework that generates current account benchmarks for external sustainability analysis in RRDCs.

The Fund has topical trust funds that finance technical assistance on specific topics to low- and lower middle-income countries. The Managing Natural Resource Wealth and Tax Policy and Administration topical trust funds, with five-year budgets of $25.3 million and $27 million, respectively, completed three years of operations in FY2014.
Providing analytical work through flagship publications in April 2015 to address volatility in commodity prices, such as the impact of oil prices across the Fund’s membership had broad implications for the work of the IMF. Bilateral, regional, and global surveillance activities all adjusted to the rapidly changing environment. Article IV consultations, Regional Economic Reports, and the Fund’s flagship publications—the World Economic Outlook (WEO), Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) and Fiscal Monitor—all devoted considerable attention to issues related to oil price volatility for instance.

**World Bank:** IBRD offers financial products that allow clients to efficiently fund their development programs and manage risks related to currency, interest rates, commodity prices, and natural disasters. In fiscal year 2014, the Bank’s Treasury executed U.S. dollar equivalent (USDeq) 4.3 billion in hedging transactions on behalf of member countries, including USDeq 2.7 billion in interest rate hedges, USDeq 1.1 billion in currency hedges, USDeq 52 million in hedges against non-IBRD obligations, and USDeq 547 million for disaster risk management. In addition, the Bank’s Treasury executed swap transactions totaling USDeq 33.1 billion to manage the risks of IBRD’s balance sheet.

The World Bank continues to be a leader in global transparency through its Access to Information Policy. This policy, implemented in 2010, recognizes the right to a two-level appeals process when a request for information is denied. In keeping with its commitment to transparency, accountability, and results, the Bank continues to work with local stakeholders to maximize the outreach and impact of this policy.

**ILO:** The innovative ILO/IFC Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) programme monitors factories, trains management and workers, and provides guidance and advice on factory improvements that help enterprises preserve profits while respecting workers’ rights in the garment industry. BFC is committed to supporting the competitiveness of the Cambodian garment industry and helping to maintain the reputation of Cambodia as an ethical sourcing destination. This is also done by maintaining a Better Factories Cambodia’s Transparency Database. Within the next year it is foreseen that all the Better Work Programmes will create their own Transparency Databases, which will look at accountability and transparency in the garment sector in the following LDCs: Bangladesh, Haiti and Lesotho.

**FAO:** Through FAO’s Crop and Food Security Assessments Missions (CFSAMS), which are conducted jointly with WFP, FAO monitors national and global market and trade developments using its web portal in addition with the following:

(i) **Crop Prospects and Food Situation:** published four times a year and focuses on developments affecting the food situation of developing countries, with a specific section on Africa.

(ii) **Cereal Supply/Demand Balance Sheets** for each of Sub-Saharan Africa countries is also published four times a year.

(iii) **Global Food Price Monitor:** published monthly and focuses on current food prices at world, regional and country level with 3 sections describing the price situation in LDCs.

(iv) **Country Briefs for LDCs:** over 400 were updated during 2010-2014.
(v) **Database of Interpolated Estimated Dekadal Rainfall for LDCs:** updated timely and regularly during 2010-2014.

(vi) **Food Outlook:** published twice a year and focuses on developments affecting global food and feed markets, with comprehensive assessments and forecasts on a commodity-by-commodity basis.

**FAO Rice Market Monitor:** published four times a year and provides an analysis of the most recent developments in the global rice market, including a short-term outlook.

FAO has corporate programs with IFIs such as the World Bank and IFAD in food security, nutrition, agriculture and rural development (FSNARD), sustainable natural resource management (NRM) and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation (CCM/A) in developing countries and countries in transition, assisting governments and country stakeholders, main development partners, in particular international financing institutions with the strategic planning and implementation of their investments to achieve growth, poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition goals.

**IFAD:** IFAD provides financial and technical support to LDCs for the development of local and country-level markets, working on both stimulating supply and demand (via income increase) for local products. In addition, IFAD works on regional market linkages. All this helps decrease dependence on community exports.

**UNEP:** An example of UNEP’s work in strengthening LDCs capacity in the area of agriculture is the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF). It launched an initiative called Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products in East Africa which was an effort to green agriculture and open new market access opportunities for East African region. At the time, there were more than five different public standards and several private and international standards being used in the region. The proliferation of standards posed significant problems for local farmers, including high compliance costs. Moreover, the various schemes caused an obstacle to regional trade and limited cooperation among organic traders at a time when demand outstripped supplies. To address these challenges, it was decided jointly by EAC member states, UNEP and UNCTAD that a regional organic standard would be beneficial for boosting production and trade of organic products. The CBTF facilitated a region-wide process of technical cooperation between countries, which included intensive public consultations with a broad range of stakeholders.

A regional public-private sector working group was also established with members from bureaus of national standards, organic movements (NGOs) and certification bodies (private sector), which further developed and tested the draft standard. Finally, in 2007, the EAC Council of Ministers adopted the East Africa Organic Products Standard (EAOPS). It was the second regional organic standard after that of the European Union, and the first ever to be developed through a region-wide public-private-NGO partnership. The success of the initiative is largely attributed to the inclusiveness of the process. It was guided by national governments, and its development and pilot testing was led by national NGOs and the private sector.

**UNDP:** UNDP adopted the Strategy for Supporting Sustainable and Equitable Management of the Extractive Industries in 2012. The Strategy introduces a broad approach in helping resource-
dependent countries develop their capacities, institutions and governance systems to enable their extractive sectors to contribute to sustainable development priorities and to serve as catalysts for economic diversification. Since 2012, UNDP has supported 17 LDCs with extractive industry related activities. For instance, in Lesotho and Burundi, UNDP actively engaged in supporting the development of comprehensive oil, gas and mining policies with transparent governance structures. In Cambodia, UNDP has supported the development of the mining and petroleum sectors through capacity development, policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. UNDP is also currently providing policy advice and technical assistance to Liberia, Yemen and Zambia on issues ranging from revenue management, diversification strategies to strengthening local content provisions.

E. Human and Social Development

**Context:** Women, men and children are the greatest assets of LDCs; their potential both as agents and beneficiaries of assistance must be fully realized. About 60 per cent of the population of LDCs is under the age of 25. LDCs face serious economic, human and social development challenges. They will continue to face the significant burden of poverty in coming years unless concrete steps are taken to tackle its root causes in a sustainable way, including by building productive and human capacity. Poverty and hunger are multidimensional problems that pose serious constraints to LDCs’ efforts to make progress in human and social development owing to inability to access essential services such as education, health, water and sanitation and to access productive resources to participate in social, economic and political life and benefit from economic growth. LDCs are starkly lagging behind in meeting most of the internationally agreed development goals.

**Goals and Targets of the IPoA:** Specific goals and targets will be enumerated under the areas encompassed by this priority area, which are:

1. Education and training
2. Population and primary health
3. Youth Development
4. Shelter
5. Water and sanitation
6. Gender equality and empowerment of women
7. Social protection

Does your organization provide assistance to LDCs with respect to human and social development?


E. 1. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Goals and Targets:
(a) Ensure universal access to free primary education in LDCs by increasing the enrolment and retention rates, and also increase access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and skill development training;
(b) Increase the quality of education and training that is offered at all levels and increase literacy and numeracy rates of adults and children;
(c) Eliminate gender disparities in education and training and ensure equal quality of education between males and females.

Questions:

1) Does your organization provide financial or technical support for LDCs to implement their national education plans and programmes, including increased accessibility in rural and remote areas?
   
   UNESCO, FAO, WMO, ILO, EIF, UNIDO, WIPO, ITU, ITC, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP, UNFPA, ESCAP, OPS, World Bank

2) Does your organization support LDCs to go beyond MDG targets in education, especially in increasing enrolment and decreasing dropout rates through measures such as abolishing school fees, providing school meals and ensuring that schools have separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls?
   
   UNESCO, FAO, WMO, WFP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, OPS, ESCAP, World Bank

3) Does your organization assist in providing support to LDCs’ efforts to train and retain teachers and trainers, particularly in rural and underserved areas?
   
   UNESCO, FAO, WMO, UNIDO, ITU, EIF, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, ESCAP, World Bank, IFAD, ICAO

4) Does your organization support LDC efforts to improve higher educational and technical and vocational education and training?
   
   UNESCO, FAO, WMO, ILO, UNIDO, EIF, ITU, WIPO, UNEP, UNWTO, UNCDF, UNICEF, WFP, HABITAT, UN WOMEN, OPS, OSSC, UNCTAD, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD, ICAO

5) Does your organization support higher education institutes in allocating places and scholarships for students and trainees from LDCs, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics?
   
   UNESCO, FAO, WMO, WIPO, ITU, OSSC, UNCTAD, World Bank, IAEA

Selected Activities in education and training

Technical and vocational education (ILO, WMO, UNESCO, UN Habitat, ICAO)

Rehabilitation, building, establishment of schools (UNOPS, UN Habitat)

Curriculum development (UNFPA, UNIDO)
Professional development and training (UNFPA, UNESCO, FAO, UNCTAD, World Bank, IAEA, ICAO)

Capacity development and training (UNESCO, WTO/EIF, ICAO)

Policy advice (UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF)

Financial literacy training and youth employment and entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNCDF)

Financial support (UNESCO, World Bank)

Advocacy (UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF)

Higher education exchanges/scholarship (ICT, OSSC)

Knowledge platforms and connectivity (ITU, UN Women, UNCTAD)

School feeding programmes (WFP)

UNESCO and its partners are working to support the LDCs in accelerating progress towards achieving their IPoA education goals and objectives through the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The SDGs reflect the important role of education by encapsulating targets in a stand-alone goal (Goal 4), and the success of achieving all of the other goals is linked to this SDG. The Incheon Declaration, adopted during the World Education Forum in May 2015 in Incheon, Korea, constitutes the commitment of the education community to Education 2030, and entrusts UNESCO to lead, coordinate and be the focal point for education within the overall SDG coordination. The roadmap for governments to achieve the Education 2030 Agenda, with the support of the education community, is contained in the Framework for Action (FFA), which was launched and endorsed by the global education community during a high-level event, held alongside the 38th session of UNESCO’s General Conference in November 2015.

At country level, UNESCO is providing support to the LDCs in the following areas:

- Teaching and Learning: UNESCO is supporting the development and implementation of teacher policies and professional development programmes. A total of 17 LDCs have thus far benefitted from UNESCO’s support for institutional capacity development, with a focus on development or review of teacher education curriculum and qualification frameworks and strategies;
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): Solid progress was registered in implementing activities in the three core areas of UNESCO’s Strategy for TVET: upstream policy advice and capacity development, normative work, and knowledge sharing. Thus far, a total of 14 LDCs benefitted from TVET policy reviews and capacity development.
- Literacy: UNESCO is also providing technical and financial support to reinforce literacy policies and plans in the LDCs, and to support targeted literacy interventions for youth and adults with limited literacy skills, with a particular focus on girls and women. A total of 25 LDCs benefitted from UNESCO’s work in this regard during the biennium. This also included support to meet literacy learning needs of out-of-school children and youth through strengthening national education systems and providing flexible learning opportunities. At the global level, UNICEF and
the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) developed and launched a global report on out-of-school children, which included key data and findings in this area for LDCs. UNESCO also advocated for intensified collective efforts to promote literacy in the post United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD, 2003-2012) through an effective multi-stakeholder partnership in support of country action at the UNGA, which included the preparation of key reports on this issue.

- Education sector-wide policies and planning: As part of its key role in supporting upstream education policy planning, UNESCO is supporting LDCs in capacity development on improving, revising, preparing and/or implementing education sector-wide policies and strategies. 15 LDCs have been provided with support for this biennium. UNESCO’s International Institute for Educational Planning is also providing large-scale customized trainings in LDCs in educational planning, on specific topics such as decentralization of education or transparency and anti-corruption.

**WFP:** WFP’s school meals and take-home rations provide an incentive to families to send their girls to school and to nourish them while there. School meals and take-home rations help keep girls in schools, and lower dropout rates. Keeping adolescent girls in schools gives them a better education and contributes to raising the age at which they marry or have children.

WFP’s contribution to the education sector is also aligned with the IPoA’s call on the development partners to implement specific action to promote increased accessibility in rural and remote areas as well as to increase enrolment and decrease drop-out rates through activities such school meals, among others. In 2013, WFP carried out school feeding programmes in 39 LDCs. The school feeding programmes act as a safety net in support of vulnerable school children and their families and contribute to breaking the intergenerational cycle of chronic hunger through better access to education, better learning and better nutrition and health.

The benefits of school feeding extend beyond the classroom as they are often combined with deworming and micronutrient fortification, especially when tailored to specific nutritional needs - such as those for adolescent girls - that investment is multiplied. As often as possible, food is procured locally, which benefits local farmers and the whole community, while enhancing the sustainability of the programme.

**ITU** has developed an initiative to Connect a School, Connect a Community that assists its Member States to leverage their connected schools as community ICT centres, providing ICT skills for the social and economic development of people with special needs, including women. With this initiative ITU shares best practices on community ICT centres for the social and economic empowerment of women.

Connect a School, Connect a Community Initiative is an example of public-private partnership efforts to promote broadband school connectivity to serve both students and their communities. Connected schools have the potential to serve as community ICT centres to provide access to services for persons living in rural, marginal urban and isolated areas, with emphasis on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as women and girls, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, youth and children. Best practices can be compiled and shared on practical experiences. ITU provides also scholarships for girls in the technology field in the LDCs.
**UNICEF** focuses on reaching out of school children, improving learning outcomes, increasing retention rates through to secondary school, and providing education in humanitarian situations. In line with prioritized global resource allocation to LDCs, education priorities are the poorest countries and within countries, the most excluded. Gender and equity gaps in education remain a concern. UNICEF continues to hold leadership roles in major global initiatives, including the GPE, UNGEI, and Educate A Child (EAC). UNICEF co-led with UNESCO the debates and discussions that shaped education in the Sustainable Development Agenda from 2013-2014, resulting in a single education framework captured by SDG 4 and with a strong focus on equity, learning, ECD and inclusive education in 2015. Reaching children in humanitarian settings with formal or non-formal education is a priority, and about a third of education sector plans included risk assessment/management. In 2015, 31.2 million children supported through individual learning materials provided by UNICEF. Mostly in LDCs, over 580,000 classrooms were supplied with education materials and approximately 96,000 school communities trained in school management, school planning, school health or inclusive education. UNICEF supports national policies on inclusive education, promoting rights of children with disabilities, and multi-lingual education to address indigenous children.

**ICAO** provides technical support in train to trainers, and comprehensive human resources development and capacity building projects in the area of civil aviation in LDCs, such as Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Afghanistan. A MOU was signed between the government of Korea and ICAO for Human Resources Capacity-Building Training Programme to provide training to Africa Countries with the corresponding benefit to LDCs. In addition, ICAO through Global Aviation Training has qualified instructors from the LDCs and included them in the ICAO roster that will permit them to deliver courses in demand in other States. This allows the instructors to improve their standard of life with additional incomes and remain in their corresponding local institutions.

ICAO’s TRAINAIR PLUS Programme promotes training collaboration for the purpose of providing safe, secure, and sustainable development of global air transport. The ICAO Global Aviation Training Office organizes Training Developers Course (TDC), Training Instructors Course (TIC) and Training Managers Course (TMC) to all countries to enhance their training capacity. In addition, TRAINAIR PLUS Members are part of a worldwide collaborative network that develop and exchange high-quality standardized aviation training materials for the benefit of all members, including LDCs such as Niger, Senegal, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nepal, Yemen. In particular, Ecole Africaine de la Méteorologie et de l’Aviation Civile (EAMAC) of Niger, was recognized as an ICAO Regional Training Centre of Excellence (RTCE) in 2015.

**ITC:** ITC’s Youth and Trade Programme enables young entrepreneurs to internationalize their business and gain increased income opportunities. The programme coordinates with relevant policymakers, Trade and Investment Support Institutions (TISIs), as well as diverse actors in the entrepreneurship ecosystems at country, regional and international level including chambers of commerce, private sector, universities, financial institutions, impact investors and existing incubators. The Youth and Trade programme is a pragmatic response to connect young entrepreneurs to international markets and improve their income opportunities.
Youth and Trade Roadmap
A Youth and Trade Roadmap provides policymakers an opportunity to rapidly identify growing sectors that can readily integrate youth. The roadmap offers a strategic engagement with trade, allowing policymakers, private sector and other key stakeholders to identify mechanisms with which to enhance the ability of youth to engage along high potential value chains while addressing the main constraints to trade competitiveness.

Trade Accelerator for youth-owned SMEs
The Trade Accelerator for young entrepreneurs is an innovative and sustainable model to foster the integration of youth-owned SMEs into international markets and value chains. In partnership with a host institution, the Trade Accelerator model installs in the country an ecosystem of institutions, advisers, mentors, impact investors and other actors to support youth-owned SMEs with tailored services as springboards to access international markets.

E-Learning
The E-Learning course package for young entrepreneurs available through the ITC SME Trade Academy introduces a range of international business concepts and builds their trade capacity. The knowledge gained will assist young entrepreneurs to consider, assess, and plan expanding their business internationally.

UN Women: The joint programme on Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Education will be implemented between 2015 and 2020 initially in 5 countries, 4 of which are LDCs (Nepal, Tanzania, Mali and Niger). The innovative Joint Programme is a partnership between UNESCO, UNFPA, and the World Bank as a technical partner. The Programme looks beyond gender parity and the MDG focus areas in education to address the empowerment of girls and young women to stay in school and to have opportunities for second chances at education even if they drop out. It will emphasize the use of ICTs as a tool for achieving quality teaching and learning. A cross-sectoral approach allows the programme partners to address capacity development within the education sector, develop an enabling environment for gender sensitive education policies, and address the linkages between health and education by providing support for various health services for adolescents.

E. 2. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: POPULATION AND PRIMARY HEALTH

Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

(a) Achieve targets under MDGs 4 and 5 by 2015 and, building on these, further significantly reduce the infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates and child under-nutrition by 2020;

(b) Provide universal access to reproductive health by 2015, including integrating family planning, sexual health and health-care services in national strategies and programmes;

(c) Achieve targets under MDG 6 by 2015 and, building on this, further reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Questions:
1) Does your organization provide financial or technical support for LDCs to strengthen their national health systems, in particular health-financing systems to improve access to affordable quality primary health-care services?

ITU, WMO, UNICEF, UNFPA, OSSF, ILO, WIPO, OPS, UN WOMEN, ESCAP, World Bank, IAEA

2) Does your organization support work with LDCs to improve access to medicines, encourage the development of technology and the transfer of technology, the production of affordable, safe, effective and good quality medicines, fostering the production of innovative medicines, generics, vaccines and other health commodities?

ITU, WMO, UNICEF, UNFPA, OSSF, UNIDO, WIPO, UNDP, World Bank, IAEA

3) Does your organization support LDCs to develop their capacity to systematically collect and analyze demographic data to be used, inter alia, for designing appropriate national policies?

ITU, WMO, UNICEF, UNFPA, OSSF, FAO, UN WOMEN, WFP, HABITAT, ESCWA, DESA, World Bank, IAEA

Selected Activities in the area of population and primary health

Public-private partnerships to tackle diseases and empower people (ILO, UNOSSC, ITU/WHO)
Training in public health related issues (ILO, UNOPS, UNICEF, IAEA)
Construction/support/rehabilitation of healthcare infrastructure (UNOPS, UNIDO)
Policy advice for strengthening public health systems and services (UNFPA, FAO, ITU/WHO, UNICEF)
Data collection and management (UNFPA, WMO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WFP)
Support for medicinal/pharmaceutical sector (UNIDO, EIF) and nuclear medicine (IAEA)
Knowledge platforms (WMO, UNOSSC, ITU/WHO, IAEA)
Advocacy (Scaling Up Nutrition) (UNICEF/WFP), universal health coverage (World Bank)
Investments towards achieving the MDGs in health (World Bank)

UNICEF focuses first and most intently on the children left furthest behind – an equity-based approach – lies at the heart of the mission and work of UNICEF. Whether children come from the poorest homes or the most marginalized ethnic groups, UNICEF has long been committed to putting the rights of these children at the top of our agenda. In the LDCs, UNICEF continues to strengthen its efforts to reduce disparities. In 2014, UNICEF spent 53% of total programme funds in LDCs. UNICEF focuses investment in areas that provide the greatest return – and the most sustainable results. A greater focus has been made to reach the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children, especially since we know that that around half the population in LDCs is under 18.

Results reported by UNICEF Offices in 2014 include 35 of 59 target countries eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus with UNICEF support; 100 countries procuring 2.71 billion doses of vaccines, covering 40 per cent of the world’s children; measles elimination and rubella control in 15 countries, involving more than 160 million children; mainstreaming of risk reduction and resilience, including climate change, in national health strategies and plans in 34 countries; 13.8 million people gaining access to improved drinking water and more than 11.3 million to sanitation in non-emergency
settings, and more than 19,000 communities home to 9.3 million people certified as open-defecation free.

UNOSSC in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization initiated in 2011 the South-South Global Health Exchange (SS-GHX). It was developed to support the UN Secretary-General’s global health agendas. SS-GHX promotes cooperation, sharing and exchanges of successful health practices. It aims to identify high-impact practices, policies and research as well as innovative health technologies and funding resources to facilitate the transfer of appropriate, adaptable and affordable solutions that effectively tackle the specific health needs of developing countries (with a strong emphasis on LDCs). SS-GHX works to help scale up and disseminate Southern innovations via an online platform and an offline support and service platform.

SS-GHX utilizes a multi-sectoral and public-private partnership approach to enhance implementation efforts at both the global and local levels. Key focus areas include maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS in response to, among others, the 2011 General Assembly high-level meeting on non-communicable disease prevention and control and the Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health. SS-GHX has been endorsed by the Innovation Working Group of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Every Woman Every Child movement as a sustainable business model for scaling up development solutions and funding opportunities for LDCs and countries in the South.

ITU and WHO launched on 17 October 2012, a new and innovative partnership programme on NCDs called ’Be Healthy Be Mobile’ “to unleash the potential of mobile technologies for non-communicable diseases, to empower people, communities and nations at large, by facilitating the transformation of mobile phones at the hands of all into enabling tools that provide access to relevant information and services that address the prevention and control of NCDs.”

Among new technologies, mobiles have been the most rapidly adopted technology in history, and they are now used in connection with a wide range of public health initiatives, in both developed and developing countries. By the end of 2013, there were almost as many mobile cellular subscriptions as there are people on the planet with 6.8 billion; and over 90% of the world’s population is already covered by a mobile cellular network. Mobile phones have unique advantages in the health sector, in being available, accessible, affordable, portable, innovative and empowering. They provide access to services for those who are not easily able to engage with the formal health system. Examples in LDCs include mDiabetes initiative in Senegal to increase awareness and patient education about diabetes through SMS messages, using cell phones to train health workers, and delivering remote consultation services as well as providing treatment and management support for diabetics. In Zambia the mCancer program was implemented because Zambia has one of the highest prevalence of cervical cancer in the world; and many challenges remain to ensure screening of all women despite national efforts. The initiative provides national sms based services to the country’s women, encourage them to go for screening for cervical cancer and provide follow up services via phones. The ITU/WHO Joint Initiative includes also the development of mHealth tools, the development of manuals or “Planning and Implementation Documents” that are created, refined, used in countries to become the blueprint for how a country can run a national mHealth programme. They contain the business and technology rules, operation guides, as well as the content for the specific intervention.
UNDP has focused on facilitating access to medicines by supporting countries to take full advantage of the flexibilities permitted under the WTO’s Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to increase treatment access. This work takes place in the context of increasing numbers of people in need of treatment caused by the revision of the WHO treatment guidelines in 2013. This work is also in the context of an increased reliance on domestic financing for HIV treatment as multilateral funding becomes less available in certain regions. For example, UNDP co-hosted two consultations in partnership with civil society at the request of the government of Uganda in 2012, resulting in the development of a booklet used for advocacy purposes by civil society. As a result of these consultations, UNDP supported the Government of Uganda to revise its Industrial Property Bill to incorporate public health sensitive flexibilities available in the TRIPS Agreement. The Bill was passed by Parliament in August 2013 and signed into law by the President in January 2014. UNDP has provided similar technical support to a number of LDCs, and has also developed an issue brief in partnership with UNAIDS advocating for the extension of the LDC waiver at the WTO.

UNFPA: “UNFPA Supplies”, formerly called “UNFPA GPRHCS” is one of UNFPA’s flagship programmes that provides earmarked additional support to widen access to a reliable supply of Reproductive Health commodities (including contraceptives and life-saving obstetric drugs) in 35 Least Developed Countries grappling with high maternal death rates, low rates of contraceptive use and a growing unmet need for family planning. In 2007, the programme was launched in 12 countries. By 2015, coverage had expanded to 46 countries (that is, 35 LDCs and 11 Lower MICs). Cumulatively, UNFPA has mobilized a total of $780.7 million for the programme between 2007 and 2014. Sixty-five percent (65%) of available resources have been invested in procurement of commodities, while 35% have been invested in strengthening national capacities and health systems. Over the course of 2013 and 2014, the programme has reached an estimated cumulative total of 68 million users of modern family planning. As such, the programme may have averted up to 17 million unintended pregnancies, 51,000 maternal deaths and 3.1 million unsafe abortions. Moreover, during the same period, the programme has potentially contributed to US$750 million in cumulative cost savings for families and nations including the cost for antenatal care and treatment for pregnancy related complications.

UNFPA is a member of the H4+ partnership of UN agencies (World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UN Women and the World Bank). H4+ focuses on improving maternal and child health in 75 countries of which 44 are LDCs. The H4+ advocates for a stronger focus on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) within the national health sector plans and enabled some governments, such as Bangladesh to reduce maternal deaths by more than two thirds and halve neonatal deaths between 2008 and 2014. The second phase of the initiative aims to translate the SDGs and the UN Secretary General’s “every woman, every child, every adolescent strategy” into reality with a focus on quality and sustainable maternal and new-born solutions including introduction of a cadre of midwives meeting international standards and the revitalization of family planning programmes.

WFP: Malnutrition affects millions of people around the world. A third of all deaths in children under the age of five in developing countries are linked to undernutrition. WFP’s role in fighting malnutrition is not only to treat it but also to prevent it becoming severe in the first place.
Nutrition considerations cut across all WFP operations and programmes. The agency is giving nutritional input, even in an emergency-related general food distribution. The same is true, in less dramatic circumstances, when it provides a snack of fortified biscuits or a hot meal for children during school meals.

In 2014, most WFP beneficiaries were assisted through general distributions of food, cash or vouchers, reflecting the scale of WFP’s emergency response in 2014. 32 operations in 18 countries were conducted to prevent nutritional deterioration and related mortality and support acutely malnourished people in emergencies. Nutrition-specific activities to supplement relief work and address chronic undernutrition assisted 10.3 million beneficiaries. A multi-donor trust fund further supported: i) roll-out of WFP’s Nutrition Capacity Strengthening Plan; ii) the establishment of new nutrition indicators; and iii) innovative nutrition programming and learning in Guatemala, Kenya, Madagascar, the Niger, the Sudan and Uganda.

IAEA: A project entitled “Determining the Impact of Vitamin A and Zinc Supplementation on Intestine Parasite Morbidity, School Performance and Body Composition Among School Children”, which was launched in Burkina Faso to determine the impact of vitamin A and zinc supplementation on intestine parasite morbidity, school performance, body composition and Vitamin A and zinc status in school children.

Three projects entitled “Enhancing Ebola Diagnostic Capacity using nuclear-derived technique at WHO/NICD EVD Lakka Laboratory”, “Enhancing Ebola Diagnostic Capacity using RT-PCR at the Liberian Institute for Biomedical Research” and “Strengthening Human Resources for Ebola Virus Disease Diagnostic in Liberia using Nuclear-derived Techniques” for Sierra Leone and Liberia. The projects were launched in 2014 as part of the IAEA contribution to the international efforts to fight the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). The projects aim at enhancing diagnostic capabilities in these countries.

A regional project entitled “Applying Nuclear Techniques to Design and Evaluate Interventions to Reduce Obesity and Related Health Risks”, which was launched to support the improvement of relevant interventions to prevent and control obesity in Africa. The project focuses on the development of human resources for using stable isotope techniques to assess body fat, total energy expenditure and physical activity. To address this need, regional professionals are being trained through a Master’s Degree in Nuclear Science and Technology. Twelve LDCs participate in this regional project.

The IAEA is supporting Yemen with the establishment of a centralized hospital radiopharmacy and positron emission tomography at the nuclear medicine centre in the Al-Thawra Modern General Hospital. The aim of IAEA support is, on the one hand, to enhance existing nuclear medicine services in Yemen through the centralized production and quality control of technetium-99m kits. The IAEA therefore supports the provision of necessary equipment for centralized radiopharmacy, such as a lyophilizer, laminar air flow cabinet, hot cells and dose calibrator for estimation of the radioactivity of doses to meet the requirements of good manufacturing practice (GMP) and radiation protection regulations. Additionally, the IAEA supports Yemen with the introduction of more advanced diagnostic techniques through the introduction of positron emission tomography (PET) which is a more accurate diagnostic imaging technique used for early detection of cancers.
The IAEA is supporting Bangladesh’s Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, through the TC project, “Improving the Management of Oncological, Cardiovascular and Infectious Diseases, particularly Tuberculosis”, which seeks to improve the integration of PET/computed tomography (CT) technology in diagnostic medicine.

E. 3. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

(a) Strive to ensure the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making processes;

(b) Build the educational and skills capacity of youth and achieve full and productive employment and decent work;

(c) Enhance youth participation in the economy through improving access to vocational education, volunteering and employment.

Context: LDCs in general have a higher fertility rate, and therefore attach great importance to youth and youth employment. People under the age of 25 comprise 61 per cent of the population of LDCs, which is one of the highest rates in the world. Figures from 2013 indicate that more than 10 percent of literate youth between the ages of 15-24 were unemployed in 24 LDCs. Limited education, lack of working skills and high youth unemployment contributes to considerable youth underemployment and low-income self-employment, often in the informal sector. Employment-to-population ratios for youth aged 15-24 are considerably and consistently lower than those for the population as a whole across LDCs. Investment in education, skills sets, employment and empowerment is fundamental to achieving a sustainable future and ensuring peace and security. Young populations should be in a position to contribute to such a process substantially as change agents.5

Questions:

1) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical assistance to support LDCs’ policies and programmes that provide economic opportunities and productive employment to youth?

   ILO, UNIDO, WTO/EIF, ESCWA, ESCAP, OPS, DESA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCDF, WMO, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD

2) Does your organization support formal and non-formal education systems in LDCs for capacity-building and skill development of youth and adolescents?

   ILO, UNIDO, WTO/EIF, UNEP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNWTO, OPS, ESCAP, DESA, OSSC, WMO, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD, UNCDF

5 See A/70/83-E/2015/75.
3) Does your organization support the promotion of youth exchange programmes, including through virtual campuses and other networking mechanisms?

**UNICEF, DESA, WIPO, WMO, IAEA, IFAD**

**Selected activities on Youth**

Policy support on youth employment and civil participation (ILO, UNESCO, UN Women)

Advisory services on transition from informal to formal economy (ILO, FAO)

Institutional capacity building for youth employment (EIF, FAO, UNIDO)

ICT infrastructure, including for technology and innovation (ITU)

E-training, including young government officials (IMF), virtual laboratories (WMO), academy distance learning (WIPO)

Advocacy and outreach (UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women)

Education/training for youth in employment-generating areas (UNCDF, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNIDO, World Bank, IAEA)

Knowledge and social media platforms (ECA, UNDP, UN Women)

Financial inclusion targeted at young people to help them manage their financial lives and start small businesses (UNCDF)

Solutions for Youth Employment, a global coalition (World Bank)

**World Bank:** Higher education plays a key role in promoting economic growth and development, especially for Africa’s fast-growing youth population. As one of the largest financiers of higher education in the region, the Bank is mobilizing its knowledge and leadership behind countries to champion education. The World Bank’s new $150 million Africa Higher-Education Centers of Excellence Project is funding 19 university-based centers for advanced education in West and Central Africa. It will support regional specialization among participating universities in mathematics, science, engineering, and information and communication technology (ICT) to address regional challenges.

Further to this, the World Bank is undertaking much work on youth unemployment, with the recent launch of the Solutions for Youth Employment, a global coalition that acts to address the pervasive challenges of youth employment.
Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs

ECA developed a tool, a knowledge platform to share ECA’s work and best practices on social policies including youth issues. The platform was used by both policy makers and young people and was used to facilitate the sharing of good practices at individual and country level on issues of youth employment. The platform enhanced peer learning, information sharing and knowledge creation among ten countries including LDCs on how their countries were addressing youth unemployment issues. The platform was also used to obtain the views and input of young Africans on the area of the creative economy as a new development pathway for youth employment in Africa.

IFAD: One of the challenges facing young rural people is lack of access to information and networks that would help them to share skills, business opportunities and create links with decision-making processes that affect them. During IFAD’s Cartagena workshop on rural youth entrepreneurship in November 2010, participants wrestled with these issues. They discussed ideas for connecting young people to enable them to share innovations, experiences and ideas and to more effectively participate in key decision-making processes. One of the outcomes of these discussions was creation of the

THE UN SYSTEM WIDE ACTION PLAN ON YOUTH

As part of his Five-year Action Agenda for his second term in office, the Secretary-General called for the development of a System-wide Action Plan (Youth-SWAP) to enhance the coherence and synergy of UN activities in five key areas related to youth: employment and entrepreneurship; protection of rights and civic engagement; political inclusion; education, including comprehensive sexuality education; and health.

The Youth-SWAP provides strategic guidance to the UN system as a whole in its work on youth. It provides an opportunity to bolster inter-agency collaboration on youth issues at the global, regional and national levels. Enshrined within the larger framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Youth-SWAP builds on the specific mandates, expertise and capacities of individual United Nations entities, pooling the strengths of the whole United Nations system and promoting joint programmatic work.

The Inter-agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), a network of more than 40 UN entities, developed the Youth-SWAP in 2012 through a consultative and preparatory process consisting of a global survey to obtain inputs to the Youth-SWAP framework. Over 13,500 young people from 186 countries participated. The Youth-SWAP was endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in April 2013. The first Youth-SWAP report and website (unyouthswap.org) were launched in October 2014.

In 2014, a Youth SWAP Monitoring and Evaluation framework was developed. This framework is based on the important role that the Youth-SWAP plays as a reporting tool to measure the programmatic stewardship of the UN system. It will allow the UN system to identify the countries and topics for which additional efforts are needed in terms of youth development support for evidence-based decision making and programming. It will also strengthen accountability vis-à-vis Member States by tracking the global UN effort on youth development at the country level. It is therefore not a tool to measure the global socio-demographic status of youth. The framework was adopted by the IANYD in January 2015 for the purpose of a pilot phase aimed at a partial test of the survey instrument on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship. The results of the pilot phase will be made available in the last quarter of 2015.

Source: UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs
Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN), a platform inspired and led by youth and open to young rural people with the passion to inspire their communities and encourage change.

GYIN is comprised of representatives from youth development and leadership organizations working for economic empowerment of young women and men throughout the world. Its members include young entrepreneurs, farmers’ organizations, NGOs and representatives from governments and international organizations. GYIN’s mission is to establish a global network of young entrepreneurs, with the ultimate aim of contributing to poverty reduction by providing opportunities for young people to serve as agents of change through innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership and self-employment. Through its members it works to create a platform for sharing skills, knowledge and experience. It also supports young entrepreneurs in implementing and expanding projects aimed at developing their local communities.

Established in October 2011, GYIN creates an opportunity for young people to network and interact. It also makes youth accessible to planners and decision-makers, supporting their direct involvement in policy discussions and initiatives to promote their economic empowerment. The young people report that when they have an opportunity to discuss policy directly with policymakers through such a forum, their views are received more thoroughly and sincerely than has traditionally been the case. In addition, building on interactions from young people through GYIN, IFAD is increasingly widening the spaces for rural youth and their organizations to be heard at all levels.

**UNCDF: YouthStart** (Building Youth Inclusive Financial Sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa) a UNCDF initiative established in partnership with The MasterCard Foundation, aims to increase access to financial services for low-income youth in sub-Saharan Africa, with an emphasis on savings and financial education. After working for four years with 10 leading FSPs in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Uganda), the initial target to provide access to finance to 200,000 youth between the ages of 12-24 was more than doubled, with 450,000 youth having gained access to financial services, while the scope of products offered expanded to 17 new youth demand driven products. As of December 2014, YouthStart FSP partners granted access to savings accounts to almost 515,000 young people (46% young women), trained over 500,000 youth in financial education (54% young women), and provided loans to almost 72,000 young entrepreneurs. These young clients have accumulated $14.8 million in savings while young entrepreneurs accessed $7.3 million in loans to either start up or expand their own businesses.

**UNESCO** is working to promote youth development in the LDCs in the framework of its Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), which defines the main axes of the Organization’s work in this area: providing support for the formulation, review and implementation of youth policies with the participation of youth; capacity development for the transition to adulthood; and civic engagement and democratic participation and social innovation. An example of UNESCO’s work in this area is the interagency review process of Zambia’s National Youth Policy in coordination with ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the UN Country Team. The policy review process applied a participatory and inclusive methodological approach building on, and feeding into national and development priorities. The two-year process (2012-2013) engaged concerned stakeholders, from government to civil society, multilateral donors and agencies, academia, as well as young women and men. Youth engagement and participation was enabled from the design of the policy review process.
Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs

throughout its implementation and finalization: the national Youth Development Council, as well as representatives of youth NGOs and association were directly involved in all stages of the process, and extensive consultations were conducted with young women and men in all provinces of Zambia. The new National Policy on Youth is accompanied by a detailed Action Plan identifying key actions and related responsibilities among all stakeholders engaged in the process and concerned by the implementation of the policy.

**UNFPA**, as part of the UN system, has implemented the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, and is a lead agency for advocacy and technical operations to build human capital of young people and harness a demographic dividend. In 12 countries of East and Southern Africa (including DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia), and six countries of the Sahel (five of which are least developed), UNFPA has supported demographic evaluations of national prospects for harnessing a demographic dividend, and provided policy advice to governments on critical investments needed for youth empowerment, including sexual and reproductive health, education and employment. UNFPA’s work on the demographic dividend spans least developed countries in Africa, South and East Asia, and Latin America. Projects include the applications of National Transfer Accounts, the provision of sub-national analyses of policy needs and health and education projects to ensure rights-based human capital development of young people.

In Yemen, **ESCWA** worked in close coordination with the UNCT to support the development of a government National Youth Development Agenda led by the transitional Ministry of Youth and Sports between 2012 and 2014. In parallel, ESCWA also provided technical assistance to mainstream youth participation within relevant outcomes of Yemen’s National Dialogue Conference. In Sudan, ESCWA undertook initial consultations with the Minister of Youth in late 2014 to support national efforts in designing and implementing national youth policies, and further engagement is planned for 2015 and 2016 in coordination with resident UN agencies.

**UN-Habitat** has two flagship programmes that focus on capacity-building and skill development of youth - the One Stop Youth Resource Centres and the Urban Youth Fund. UN-Habitat has worked with local government, the private sector, and youth civil society to establish four One Stop centres in the capitals of Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda. These youth centres provide training in a range of job skills with the focus on assuring that youth have a better chance at achieving a sustainable livelihood. The Urban Youth Fund has supported 270 youth-led agencies in 63 developing countries with the goal of spurring youth innovation in a range of urban sectors.

**ITU**: The ITU’s Secretary-General’s new Global ICT Entrepreneurship Initiative aiming at connecting ICT-related entrepreneurs and SMEs in emerging markets, such as the LDCs, can be the basis for enhanced inter-agency collaboration that can yield tangible results and narrow the gap of youth unemployment. Youth represent the majority of the LDCs’ population; the initiative will support a global network of technology parks, innovation centres and incubators to connect multiple players in the ecosystem and youth themselves.

**UNDP** developed its first-ever Corporate Strategy on Youth (2014-2017), in alignment with the goals and objectives set in UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2014-2017, and building on the numerous youth initiatives that the organization has supported over the years around the globe. It contains 3 outcome areas: (i) enhanced economic empowerment; (ii) enhanced civic engagement and political
Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs

participation; and (iii) strengthened engagement in disaster preparedness, crisis response, resilience building in crisis/conflict context. It includes recommendations on partnerships with youth organizations and paves the way for the establishment of more formal mechanisms for youth participation (youth partnership platform, youth mainstreaming, establishment of the first global youth team). UNDP in Afghanistan played an important role in the formulation of the first National Youth Policy, which identifies the guidelines for meaningful, inclusive and active youth participation. UNDP Afghanistan now supports the formulation of the National Youth Strategy that will pave the way to design a new UN joint programme on Youth. In line with UNDP’s youth strategy, UNDP Afghanistan is committed to support initiatives to enhance political participation, capacity development, economic empowerment, and to strengthen youth engagement in volunteerism through joint programming with UNV and other UN agencies. UNDP APRC partnered with the Asian Barometer Survey, a regional research network that conducts regular surveys on democracy. The purpose of this partnership was to increase understanding on the level of youth participation in democratic and political processes, using the first hand data collected by the Asian Barometer in 11 countries[1], as well as in Taiwan (Province of China). The information has resulted in a regional publication “Youth and Democratic Citizenship in East and South-East Asia: Exploring political attitudes of East and South-East Asian youth through the Asian Barometer Survey” which provides regional overviews on key topics related to governance and political processes, as well as policy recommendations. These are expected to be a starting point for further work at the country level.

UNDP Cambodia has one of the most comprehensive programmes in the region for targeting and involving youth. The ‘Strengthening Democracy Programme’ (2011-2015) has strong youth components including a nationwide youth multimedia civic education campaign (‘Loy 9’) that aims to equip young Cambodians with civic knowledge and skills to enhance their participation in democratic processes. In Bangladesh, under the ‘Chittagong Hill Tract Development Programme’ (CHTDF), youth from diverse ethnic groups are engaged in local tolerance building and peace promotion through initiatives such as ‘Sports for Peace’ and ‘Debating at school and college levels’. The ‘No Violence Campaign’ led by the CHT Peacemakers Alliance target youth as actor of change in strengthening tolerance, social cohesion and trust and has provided peace and tolerance education in schools and colleges.

UNIDO, within the IPoA Strategy, particularly focuses on empowering youth by providing them the necessary skills to revitalize their community and participate in the production of valuable and tradable goods. Among other projects, the ‘Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship for All’ project (IDEA) focuses on youth-led innovation enterprises, the creation of clusters and networks in high growth potential sectors in LDCs (IDEA is currently being piloted in Senegal and Mali and will be extended in the coming months to Burkina Faso, Togo, Zambia and Myanmar. The Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP) also aims at stimulating entrepreneurial talents among young people by enhancing their ability to identify economic opportunities and by developing other commercial skills (e.g. Timor-Leste, Angola).
E. 4. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: SHELTER

Goals and targets of the IPoA:

Increase access to affordable housing, land and housing-related infrastructure and basic services while achieving a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers and rural poor.

Context: The shortfall of adequate housing in LDCs is partly the result of increased demand due to the rapid pace of population growth as well as the needs of refugees and internally displaced people during and after conflict. It is also due to inadequate supply of affordable housing resulting from high construction costs, insufficient finance for housing and insecure land tenure rights. This situation is particularly acute in urban areas, which also suffer from lack of access to improved drinking water and sanitation, insecure tenure, non-durable housing and overcrowding. Nineteen of the 25 countries where over half of the urban populations lives in slums are LDCs.  

Questions:

1) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical support to the efforts of LDCs to improve access to land, housing and basic services, taking into account the special needs for reconstruction of LDCs devastated by natural and man-made disasters and conflicts?

ILO, ITU, UNDP, HABITAT, OPS, FAO, WMO, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, ESCAP, World Bank, IFAD

2) Does your organization support LDCs in developing capabilities and capacities of national and local governments and institutions, including for the delivery, quality monitoring, financing and operation and maintenance of housing and basic services?

ILO, ITU, UNDP, UNCDF, HABITAT, OPS, WMO, UNICEF, World Bank

3) Does your organization support LDCs, including through technology transfer, as well as financial and technical assistance, for low-cost building, utilizing local contents and materials?

ILO, ITU, UNDP, HABITAT, OPS, UNEP, UNCDF, OSSC, World Bank

Selected activities on Shelter

Technical assistance in rebuilding infrastructure with local employment creation in rural areas (ILO)

Design/construction of shelter in post disaster (OPS, UNDP)

Upgrading slums (UN Habitat)

Advisory services for city planning, housing and related infrastructure (WMO, UN Habitat)

6 Ibid.
Reports, studies (ESCWA)

Technology transfer and investment (South-South)

Public-private partnerships, including Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative (UNEP)

**UNOPS:** In Haiti in 2011, UNOPS housing portfolio focused on the production and construction of transitional wooden shelters, as a more durable solution to the tents being used in many camps and this was funded by a variety of donors. UNOPS has established a production site in Port-au-Prince. Once produced, shelter kits are transported to the area identified for construction. UNOPS is hiring Haitians from earthquake-affected and poor neighbourhoods in order to provide incomes and stabilize livelihoods as a secondary outcome of the project. As part of the transitional shelter programme, UNOPS offered to test the designs adopted by the various shelter agencies. This wind load analysis service was used by shelter agencies to test their shelter’s strength. The shelter design is tested to a total 174 kilometres per hour, equivalent to the wind gust speed of a Category 2 hurricane.

**OSSC:** Through public-private partnerships, SS-GATE has supported technology transfer and investment in real estate development for low to medium cost housing and related infrastructure in LDCs. These projects are not a one off projects but continuous market based phased development for planned settlement development with basic amenities.

**UN-Habitat** supports national and local governments to assess their housing situation through national and local housing profiles; develop and implement national and local housing strategies; and implement slum upgrading programmes. UN-Habitat’s most significant programme is the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), which is supported by the European Union and operating in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, including many LDCs. In 2014, the PSUP catalyzed growing action and investment in slum improvement and prevention in 35 countries and over 150 cities across African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Advocacy for slum upgrading and prevention, poverty reduction in tandem with sustainable urban development contributed to improved knowledge and visibility of the challenge of slums internationally and especially within the United Nations system. The outcomes of the second International Tripartite Conference on Sustainable Urbanization as a Response to Urban Poverty Eradication in Kigali, Rwanda, September 2013, including the Kigali Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization for Poverty Reduction, demonstrated increased awareness of the five deprivations, and strengthened international cooperation and partnerships with countries. These attracted funding and requests from Member States to join the PSUP.

UN-Habitat also promotes the mainstreaming and implementation of national housing, slum upgrading and prevention strategies integrating Global Housing Strategy principles at city and community levels. Currently local and national government partners in 35 countries are implementing city and community development plans. Twenty-four have already been implemented and are currently documented.

**UNEP:** The United Nation’s Environment Programme’s Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) is a partnership of major public and private sector stakeholders in the building sector, working to promote sustainable building policies and practices worldwide. The initiative works to
present a common voice for building sector stakeholders on sustainable buildings and climate change. Why Buildings? Buildings use about 40% of global energy, 25% of global water, 40% of global resources, and they emit approximately potential for achieving significant GHG emission reductions, at least cost, in developed and developing countries. Furthermore, energy consumption in buildings can be reduced by 30% to 80% using proven and commercially available technologies.

### E.5. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: WATER AND SANITATION

**Goals and Targets of the IPoA:**

Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and strive to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to all by 2020.

**Questions:**

1) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical support to LDCs to improve and expand water and sanitation provision, including water pipelines and sewage networks, as well as support to strengthen the capacity of local institutions for service delivery, quality monitoring, financing, operation and maintenance?

   FAO, ITU, WMO, UNDP, HABITAT, ILO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, ESCWA, OPS, World Bank, IAEA

2) Does your organization support the efforts of LDCs to provide services to the un-served, utilizing appropriate technologies and levels of service, and strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions for service delivery, quality monitoring, financing, operations and maintenance?

   FAO, ITU, WMO, UNDP, UN HABITAT, ILO, WIPO, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNCDF, OPS, ESCWA, World Bank, IAEA

3) Does your organization help LDCs preserve and develop water sources, manage water sheds and enhance water productivity, including through sub-regional and regional collaborations?

   FAO, ITU, WMO, UNDP, UN HABITAT, ILO, UNESCO, UNEP, OPS, ESCWA, World Bank, IAEA, WFP

4) Does your organization support transfer of technology for water treatment and waste management?

   FAO, ITU, WMO, UNDP, UN HABITAT, ILO, UNIDO, WIPO, UNEP, World Bank, IAEA
5) **Does your organization support partnerships and LDCs’ initiatives to improve hygiene and increase the coverage of basic sanitation, especially for the poor, including the Sanitation and Water for All partnership?**

**FAO, ITU, WMO, UNDP, UN HABITAT, WIPO, UNEP, UNICEF, World Bank**

**Selected activities in the area of water and sanitation**

Capacity building to strengthen social dialogue around reforms in water sector (ILO) and for the implementation of reforms (UNDP)

Capacity building and technical support on rehabilitation of infrastructure (UNOPS, ILO)

Advisory services on climate and weather (WMO)

Policy advice (IMF, UNESCO, UNDP)

Technical assistance and training for water resource management.

Education, training and capacity building in sustainable management of freshwater resources (UNESCO, UNEP)

**Financing:** Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (UN-Habitat), investment on e-waste (UNIDO), World Bank Green Bonds, and IDA financing for water, sanitation and flood protection (World Bank)

Local finance for infrastructure and services (UNCDF)

**Partnership:** Sanitation and Water for All (UNDP)

Advocacy on access to improved water and sanitation (UNICEF)

**ILO:** Improving access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is one of the greatest development challenges in Angola. In the period 2003-2016, the government’s objective is to increase the proportion of people having access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation from 33 per cent to 81 per cent and from 48 per cent to 74 per cent, respectively. A Joint Programme – undertaken by the ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF from 2009-1013 supported this aim with infrastructure improvements and by enhancing the governance of the sector. The model of governance proposed entailed promoting a network of autonomous units of small utilities, with the local government at the ‘centre’ confining its role to monitoring the network, regulating the sector and pushing for the autonomy of communities in the management of their water scheme.

**WMO** supports the NMHSs to generate rainfall forecasts upstream of a river catchment or over urban areas and provide this information to city fathers in municipalities to store sufficient water for drinking and sanitation by urban residents. WMO supports Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) by the WMO designated Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and NMHSS, to provide seasonal weather forecasts and appropriate dates for tree planting over water catchments, water towers / sheds.
**IMF:** Within its mandate the IMF is recognizing that water challenges increasingly affect economic stability and growth, public finances, and poor and vulnerable social groups. Key roles for the IMF in line with its mandate and expertise include: (i) assessing the impact of water challenges on growth and macro-stability in collaboration with institutions that specialize in water; (ii) supporting policies to replace perverse subsidies with targeted social assistance under the right circumstances; and (iii) ensuring fiscal sustainability to support water infrastructure investment and financing. The recent IMF July 2015 Staff Discussion Note (SDN) *Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full? Issues in Managing Water Challenges and Policy* Instruments addressed how the IMF can—and should—play a helpful role in ensuring that macroeconomic policies are conducive to sound water management.

**UNESCO** To assist the LDCs in addressing water security challenges, UNESCO is providing education, training and capacity building in the sustainable management of freshwater resources in the context of global changes in the LDCs through its International Hydrological Programme (IHP), including the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, located in Delft, the Netherlands, and the numerous centres and institutes under the auspices of UNESCO that focus on regional water issues. The IHP is also assisting with the preparation of national policies regarding freshwater in several LDCs, and has provided training for those responsible for the implementation of such policies.

An example is the technical support that IHP provided to the Government of Kiribati to support the development of its national water resource policy and implementation plan, which are designed to provide safe, adequate, and affordable water services to all communities in Kiribati. It also addresses the conservation, sustainable use and efficient management of Kiribati’s water resources and will improve the welfare and livelihood of the people despite the threats of climate variability and change. The policy and plan are currently being implemented by the Government.

**Habitat:** The Water and Sanitation Trust Fund is a fast track financing mechanism aimed at bringing in new investment and innovative ideas to the urban water and sanitation sector, expanding service coverage for poor urban dwellers, and helping in building momentum behind the attainment of water and sanitation MDG targets. Since its inception in 2003, the Trust Fund has generated US$145 million from bilateral donors, the private sector and foundations and enabled over 1.5 million people direct access to improved water and sanitation through its demonstration projects. It has also leveraged substantial investments in the sector through strategic partnerships with development banks and the private sector.

**World Bank:** Some 32 million people will benefit from access to clean water and another 5.6 million from better sanitation facilities during IDA17. 6.8 million people were provided with access to improved sanitation facilities between 2011-2013. Examples of projects supported by World Bank Green Bonds include renewable energy installations, energy-efficiency projects, new technologies in waste management and agriculture that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to finance the transition to a low-carbon economy. Green bonds also finance forest and watershed management, and infrastructure to prevent climate-related flood damage and build climate resilience. 2014 IDA commitments for infrastructure—including the sectors Energy and Mining; Transportation; Water, Sanitation, and Flood Protection; and Information and Communications—reached $10.4 billion.

**WFP:** WFP’s ‘Food Assistance for Assets’ (FFA) programmes help meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable people by having them build or boost assets that will benefit the whole community.
Together this helps make individuals and communities more resilient. In particular, FFA can contribute to:

- Natural resources development and management (soil and water conservation, water harvesting, flood control, etc.)

- Support to the restoration of the agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries potential (rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, land rehabilitation and clearing, fish ponds, forestry and agroforestry, etc.)

- Community access to markets and social services (construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, etc.)

- Community infrastructure (repair or construction of schools, latrines, market places, community granaries and warehouses, and other community infrastructure)

- Skills development trainings related to natural resources management, asset management, livelihood diversification, income generating activities.

- Promoting access to risk transfer schemes (e.g. FFA linked to insurance)

WFP’s MERET programme has concentrated on integrated watershed management in Ethiopia for more than 30 years. Over this period, it has accrued extensive knowledge on how to implement sustainable land management activities using participatory, community-based approaches and these have laid the foundation for many of the Government flagship programmes. ([https://www.wfp.org/disaster-risk-reduction/meret](https://www.wfp.org/disaster-risk-reduction/meret))

Another example is joint WFP and FAO watershed management project in the valley of Khulm district near Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan, where spring flooding was an annual problem for local communities until the FAO-WFP project made the area safe and turned the rainwater into an asset.

**UNDP**: In Afghanistan, UNDP contributions supported over 200,000 people – more than 40 per cent of them women – with over 985,000 workdays in short-term labor in transportation and infrastructure projects, providing improved access to markets to 115,000 households, clean drinking water to over 161,000 households, and clean drinking water and irrigation systems that benefitted over 273,000 households.

Another example is Cap-Net, a global programme under UNDP, addressing the need for capacity to implement reforms in the water sector. It is an international network for capacity development in sustainable water management. It is made up of a partnership of autonomous international, regional and national institutions and networks committed to capacity development in the water sector.

**IAEA**: A four-year project on water resource management in the Sahel region which covers five major aquifer systems shared by thirteen African States, of which ten are LDCs. Significant progress has been achieved in mapping underground water resources in the region, providing technical advice and support for improving management practices at the national and regional level, and developing
human resources through training and capacity-building activities. LDCs participated in this project, benefitting from a regional and harmonized approach to managing trans-boundary water resources.

A project entitled “Assessing Groundwater Resources in the Lowlands Using Isotope Methods” was launched to enhance national capacity in Lesotho for comprehensive assessment of water resources of the Maputsoe catchment with the integration of isotope hydrology approaches for data collection and interpretation. Another example is a project entitled “Assessing the Impact of Rainwater Harvesting technologies on Recharge and Dynamics of Groundwater in an Inland Valley Swamp at Njala”, which was launched to assess – using environmental isotopes – the effect of rainwater harvesting on the dynamics and recharge of groundwater and to subsequently promote the practice in Sierra Leone.

The IAEA is supporting Bangladesh in the establishment of isotopic analysis expertise for the development of a national database for integrated water resource management in coastal areas of Bangladesh. The technique enables Bangladesh to map and analyze available groundwater resources, identifying sources of drinking water and evaluating aquifer vulnerabilities to avoid over-exploitation and contamination. The strong support provided by the IAEA to Bangladesh in this area is a testimony to the importance of ensuring sustainable access to safe and clean drinking water to ensure the health of the population and of its main source of income in rural areas- livestock.

Additionally, the IAEA is supporting Myanmar with the monitoring and assessment of watershed management practices on water quality and sedimentation rate of the Inle Lake. Due to unsustainable agricultural practices and an increase in tourism, the deterioration of water quality and also the sedimentation rate into Inle Lake, has significantly accelerated. The IAEA provides support in the application of isotope based environmental monitoring and assessment techniques, which provide valuable information for water and nitrogen dynamics, as well as erosion and sedimentation processes. This allows Myanmar to better monitor the quality of water and take appropriate remedial actions.

**E.6. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**Goals and targets of the IPoA:**

a) **Achieve equal access of women and girls to education, basic services, health care, economic opportunities, and decision-making at all levels;**

b) **Take steps to realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;**

c) **Accelerate efforts to promote women’s rights and gender equality, including women with disabilities.**

**Context:** Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central to achieving all development goals. Further efforts are needed to end gender inequalities in access to education, health care, water and sanitation, economic opportunities and productive resources, as well as to end gender-based violence. It is particularly notable that the IPoA calls for all partners to support
relevant UN agencies with a mandate in gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly UN Women, in their efforts to improve coordination and accountability of the UN system in this area.

Questions:

1) Does your organization collaborate with/support the efforts of UN-Women to improve coordination and accountability of the UN system in this area?


2) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical support for LDCs to implement policies and programmes on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including those that achieve the MDGs?

   ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO, WMO, EIF, ITC, ITU, FAO, WFP, UN WOMEN, HABITAT, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCDF, UNFPA, OPS, ESCAP, ESCWA, OSAA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, UNICEF, ODC, UNCTAD, IPU, World Bank, IFAD

3) Does your organization support LDCs in the implementation of policies and programmes that enhance women’s economic and income-generating opportunities, productive employment and access to productive resources?

   ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO, WMO, EIF, ITC, ITU, FAO, WFP, UN WOMEN, HABITAT, UNDP, UNFPA, OPS, ESCAP, ESCWA, OSAA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, WIPO, OSSC, World Bank, IFAD, UNCDF

Selected Activities on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Collaborative in-country work by UN agencies for the empowerment of women economically and their financial inclusion (ILO, IMF, UNCDF, UN Women, UNDP, UNWTO) including in the mining sector (ECA) and construction (UNOPS) and in rural areas (FAO/IFAD/UN Women/WFP) including food/nutrition and entrepreneurship (UNIDO)

Research, data collection and studies (IMF, EIF, UN Women, FAO, UNDP, UNODC, World Bank)

Technical and capacity building support and training (UN Women, UNCDF, UNDP) including for political/decision-making/leadership (UNDP, IPU)

Policy advice for national planning (UN Women/WB, UNDP) including mining (ECA) environmental programming (UNEP), combating violence against women and access to criminal justice system (UNODC)

Standards: African Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Scorecard (ECA/AU)

Partnerships for girls’ education (UNESCO)

Teacher and school administrator training for STEM (UNESCO)
Training materials for judges, court personnel and police concerning violence against women (UNODC)

Training on women’s and girls’ health (IPU)

Knowledge management: One Million Business Women Online (South-South) and dissemination (FAO) and ICT (ITU), engender Impact database and ADePT Gender software application (World Bank)

Technical assistance to fight malnutrition in pregnant/lactating women (WFP)

Advocacy (UN-Habitat, UNODC, UNICEF, IPU)
UN System-wide Action Plan for Implementation of the CEB UN System-wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The UN System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on gender equality and women’s empowerment, led and coordinated by UN Women, comprised of 15 performance standards clustered into six common functional areas, was established as the institutional response to Resolution 1997/2, by which ECOSOC called upon the UN system to mainstream a gender perspective throughout its work. The UN-SWAP was endorsed by the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination in April 2012 and set 2017 as a target for the UN System to meet all its Performance standards.

The UN-SWAP constitutes the first unified framework to systematically mainstream gender into all functions of an institution and measure progress related to gender equality and women’s empowerment across the UN system. It represents a major step forward in ensuring the accountability of the UN system for its work on gender equality and women’s empowerment and revitalizes the work of the UN system on it. It requires annual reporting by each participant entity, department and office and has yielded a clearer, more systematic and uniform picture of areas of strength and weakness across the UN System in its work on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Under the Action Plan, almost the entire United Nations system, 62 entities, departments and offices to be exact, have reported over three consecutive years on a common set of performance indicators. The Action Plan provides an annual snapshot of performance and serves as an aspirational framework of standards to which to aspire. As such, it propels progress yielding substantial improvement in the performance of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming. The third year of implementation of the Action Plan has seen progress in 14 of the 15 performance indicators. The successes of the UN-SWAP as a system-wide accountability framework may also be underscored by noting the efforts to replicate and establish subsequent “SWAP” frameworks for additional areas, including those of Youth and Indigenous Peoples.

Source: UN Women

ILO: In Ethiopia, the ILO, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP and UNFPA have partnered since 2011 to ensure women’s increased incomes in a bid to improve their livelihoods. This Programme is aligned with Ethiopia’s Growth and Transformation Plan, the overarching national development strategy, and is grounded in the UN Development Assistance Framework for Ethiopia. So far, some results include: Increased accessibility of financial and non-financial services for economically disadvantaged women; Enabling environment created and support provided for girls and women to improve participation and access to secondary and tertiary education; Strengthened institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming and; Increased institutional capacity and community level knowledge to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.
IMF: A Staff Discussion Note entitled "Fair Play: More Equal Laws Boost Female Labor Force Participation," released in February 2015, examined the effect of gender-based legal restrictions and other policies, and demographic characteristics in labor markets. Drawing on a large data set of gender-related legal restrictions, the study found that restrictions on women's rights to inheritance and property, as well as legal impediments to undertaking economic activities such as opening a bank account or freely pursuing a profession, are strongly associated with larger gender gaps in labor force participation.

UNCDF: Recognizing that a blend of gender-sensitive public and private investment will be required to advance local development, in 2014 UNCDF, UNDP and UN Women designed the Inclusive and Equitable Local Development (IELD) programme, to test ways of unlocking private finance for potentially transformative infrastructure projects that benefit women. IELD focuses on gender-sensitive infrastructure projects at the local level, such as feeder roads, bridges, and micro hydro that have potential to be significant drivers of women’s economic empowerment. The programme uses a variety of investment forms, including structured project finance, public-private partnerships, and cluster financing for small and medium enterprises. Through the Transformative Impact Financing (TIF) approach, UNCDF puts its local development finance instruments to work to unlock domestic capital for local economic development and entrepreneurship, with a special emphasis on the development impact as a measure for success. IELD looks particularly at the infrastructure investments that confront and address critical barriers to women’s economic inclusion, notably those that produce goods and services that respond to the needs and demands of women.

In addition, UNCDF focuses on gender equality and empowerment of women through its programmes on financial inclusion. UNCDF funding focuses on assisting Financial Service Providers (FSPs) to expand their outreach to women, with a target of at least 50% of clients being women, providing poor women a safe place to save, while also expanding access to credit.

World Bank: Gender integration in World Bank lending has deepened, with more lending operations including follow-up actions to address identified gender disparities. This is true across all groups of clients and sectors. The total share of Bank lending that was gender informed rose from 54 percent to 95 percent between fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2014, or nearly $38 billion in fiscal 2014. Ninety-three percent of operations in fragile and conflict-affected situations were gender informed in fiscal 2014, up from 62 percent in fiscal 2010. Similarly, 49 out of 54 operations (over 90 percent) in conflict-affected situations in Africa were gender informed in fiscal 2014. In late 2013, the World Bank launched two new open technology platforms providing a wealth of information about progress toward gender equality. One, the enGender Impact database, is a repository of impact evaluations with key findings gathered from World Bank and partner projects. Another, the ADePT Gender software application, houses a growing volume of gender data and produces quick, standardized reports, including cross-country labor statistics.

UN Women: UN Women, UNCDF, and UNDP are partners on a joint global programme on gender responsive local economic development. This initiative builds on the strategic comparative advantage of each organization to support local governments and projects in the design, planning, and implementation of sustainable local investments, which take into account the differentiated and specific needs and priorities of poor women and men. UN Women’s key responsibility has been the design, elaboration, and application of a gender-responsive local economic assessment tool, which
provides an analysis of local socio-economic situations to identify the key entry points for gender-equitable interventions.

**IFAD:** Gender equality and women’s empowerment are a key part of all IFAD’s operations. IFAD’s policy on Gender Equality and Women’s empowerment outlines a vision and roadmap to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all of the organization’s activities and approaches. In addition to specific projects explicitly targeting women, such as the FAO, IFAD, UNWomen and WFP joint project on Accelerating Process towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, IFAD has set gender goals and a specific reporting framework for all its units and programmes in order to systematize and scale up its efforts to close gender gaps. For example, in western Sudan, an IFAD-supported programme promotes community participation as a driver of sustainable development. The programme has formed nearly 700 solidarity-based, self-sufficient savings and credit groups; more than 90 per cent of the groups’ members are women. Since the programme started work in December 2005, the groups have fostered a strong savings culture among rural women. They have also enhanced women’s confidence in undertaking new economic activities, and increased their decision-making power within their communities.

Another example comes from the realization that while land is one of the keys to building better lives and equality for poor rural women in most least developed countries, women often have weak land rights, or are denied rights entirely, resulting in increased poverty for themselves and their families. In addition, in post-conflict countries like Burundi years of civil conflict, insecurity and displacement of people have exacerbated the dispute over land, with significant effects on agriculture and food security. Due to the increasing pressure on available land, women tend to be more deprived of ownership and control over it. This is the result of gaps in national legislation regarding land ownership and the persistence of customary rules that are traditionally based on a patrilineal system. IFAD-supported Transitional Programme of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Burundi works to restore livelihoods, build social capital, and promote dignity and food security in poor communities. The programme has established legal clinics, run by women lawyers, that disseminate legal information, encouraging rural women to fight discrimination and exercise their rights in land cases involving family relations and inheritance. The clinics are mobile and travel to rural communities in the hills, ensuring a higher outreach to vulnerable community members. Activities also include visits by judges to the hill communities to ensure compliance with judicial decisions, and if necessary, enforce them. The legal clinics closely interact and collaborate with local institutions, including community development committees and the Bashingantahe, the traditional notables of the hill communities, to strengthen the pre-existing structures committed to conflict resolution at the local level.

**WFP:** Gender inequality is a major cause and effect of hunger and poverty, particularly in LDCs: it is estimated that 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women and girls; 20 percent are children under 5. Achieving gender equality is crucial to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP has a strong base from which to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. WFP therefore commits itself to:

- continue providing food assistance for pregnant and lactating women, children under 5 and adolescent girls;
- continue making women the food entitlement holders and ensuring that they are not put at risk of abuse or violence as a result of this policy;
- continue facilitating the participation of women in food distribution committees; and
- continue improving access to education and reducing the gender gap in primary and secondary education, using take-home rations as an incentive.

In complex emergencies, WFP seeks to reduce the burden on, and improve the safety of, women and girls in IDP and refugee camps. Firewood is often collected exclusively by women and girls, who may walk long distances outside the camps with heavy loads and at personal risk. As part of inter-agency efforts, in camps WFP will:
- mobilize resources to provide fuel-efficient stoves to the most vulnerable women;
- use its food assistance to support income-generating activities for women and girls;
- support the creation of safe and private spaces for women and girls; and

facilitate the formation of women’s support groups in camps to enable women to make decisions and be heard concerning food and nutrition security

**UNICEF** has mainstreamed gender equality in all areas of its work. Specific areas of focus are gender parity in primary education completion, and gender parity at lower secondary level; child marriage, FGM/C, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for school girls. Almost 57% of countries have at least half of primary schools with sanitation facilities for girls that meet national standards. Developed national health or multi-sectoral plans and strategies for preventing pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescent girls; reducing adolescent pregnancy; The adolescent girl agenda was advanced through UNICEF’s engagement in UNEG, the GAVI alliance, Girls Not Brides, the Adolescent Girl Coalition, the new Global Programme on Ending Child Marriage and other programme partnerships. UNICEF served as the lead agency and secretariat of the UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI). Humanitarian and development programming was linked with an increased gender focus and UNICEF worked to strengthen the gender dimensions of education for peacebuilding.

**ECA:** The ECA Gender and Mining Project, which is being partnered with the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) and UN Women, seeks to contribute to the strengthening of gender dimensions in Africa’s mining sector, in order to advance the economic empowerment of women through the creation of decent jobs and the long term inclusion of women in the minerals value chain. It further aims to support the mainstreaming of gender in mining legislation and other auxiliary laws, which support the sector in LDCs and Middle Income Countries on the continent.

A second project, which was outside the domain of inter-agency cooperation, was the development of the African Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Scorecard. The scorecard was developed by ECA in partnership with the African Union to help member states to monitor their progress on certain gender commitments in key sectors for women’s empowerment. Using the AU parity principle of 50:50, the aim of the scorecard was to identify where countries stood (i.e. men’s and women’s status) on development indicators-MDGs, to enhance women's empowerment. This example is to shed light on how other UN agencies can aim to work with other organizations to meet global and regional commitments for the development of Africa.

**UNFPA** has partnered with the World Bank to design and implement the “Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend” (SWEDD) project, which is currently underway in six (6) countries, including five least developed countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The project focuses on women’s empowerment and youth development and addresses a myriad of
issues such as gender-based violence, early pregnancies, and early marriages, which prevent women and youth from fully participating in the sustainable development of their communities and countries.

**UNESCO** is promoting a global partnership for Girls’ education called “Better Future, Better Life.” Working in cooperation with governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and NGOs, the partnership aims to raise awareness and advocate for the importance of girls’ and women’s education as a basic human right, a global priority and an imperative development objective, so that girls and women can access and benefit from good quality education. Examples of projects implemented in the LDCs through this partnership include the “Gender-Sensitive Training of Teachers and School Principals for Girls’ and Women’s Access, Participation and Advancement in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education project” that is being implemented in Lesotho in partnership with the GEMS Foundation. The project focuses on setting up a supportive environment for teachers and school principals to build their capacities to attract and ensure effective participation of girls and young women in scientific fields of study, including through peer review, mentoring and counseling.

**FAO:** The joint FAO, IFAD, UN Women, and WFP project Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE), being implemented in Ethiopia, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda, aims to improve rural women’s food and nutrition security, increase their incomes, enhance their decision-making power and encourage policy environments conducive to their economic empowerment. To reach these objectives, the project leverages each UN agency’s comparative advantages and institutional strengths to generate more sustainable and wider-scale improvements in women’s livelihoods and lives.

**UNODC** promotes gender equality and empowerment of women through its specific work on gender in the criminal justice system, focusing on violence against women and on eliminating discrimination against women offenders and prisoners. A good practice concerning responses to violence against women is the development of mechanisms to ensure that such responses are comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated, systematic and sustained, increase the likelihood of successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of offenders, contribute to the well-being and safety of the victim and prevent secondary victimization. Under this framework, UNODC works to assist countries, including LDCs, in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice system responses to violence against women and has developed a series of important tools for relevant criminal justice officials such as the “Handbook on Effective Police Responses towards Violence against Women”, the “Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls” and a “Model implementation plan for the criminal justice systems to prevent and respond to violence against women”.

**IPU** has a strong gender programme that focuses on gender equality in parliaments as key institutions of government as well as issues such as violence against women. Activities under the programme benefit LDCs directly (when activities are targeted to specific LDC countries) and indirectly (through regional or global debates whose outcomes impact LDCs policies). In addition, the IPU tracks the number of women parliamentarians in all countries of the world, including LDCs, and works with UN Women and others, by exercising peer pressure and other tactics, to spur
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electoral and other reforms conducive to more women in parliaments and decision-making in general.

E.7. HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL PROTECTION

Goals and targets of the IPoA:

Enhance social protection systems to improve the resilience of all, including poor and disadvantaged groups.

Context: Social protection has both short- and long-term benefits to sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication and social stability. Social protection systems, including cash transfers, public work programmes, and unemployment benefits, protect the poor and support growth, employment and broader economic resilience. These systems act as stabilizers for the economy, bolster the resilience of the poor and help prevent people from falling into poverty.

Questions:

1) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical support to LDCs to develop and implement social protection policies and programmes, especially for poor and disadvantaged groups?


Selected activities in social protection

Capacity building support of national public institutions (ILO, UNFPA, IMF, WFP), educational systems (UNESCO, WFP) and government institutions and personnel (ESCWA), and emergency prevention, preparedness and response (UNICEF, WFP)

School feeding, HIV/AIDS and TB programmes and other capacity development and augmentation activities (WFP), HIV/AIDS and jobs/livelihoods (UNDP)

Policy advice and recommendations (ILO, IMF, ESCWA)

Advocacy for marginalized groups (UNFPA)

Tailored Standards on maternal health, sexual and reproductive health services (UNFPA)

Cash transfers across a range of areas (World Bank), for education (UNESCO) and food (WFP and UNICEF)

Toolkit on developing social protection policies using a participatory approach (ESCWA)

Joint programme linking decent work, child labor in agriculture/fisheries, rural employment and social protection (ILO/FAO)

Workshops (ESCWA)
Data collection, generation and analysis (UNICEF)

Advocacy (UNICEF)

FAO has joined the Regional Social Protection Floor Initiative in Asia, and established a close partnership with ILO, which resulted in a joint action plan that addressed key challenges and issues related to decent work, child labor in agriculture and fisheries, rural employment and social protection. In view of the importance of social protection in LDCs and the need for better establishing the linkages with rural employment and agriculture, ILO and FAO convened a regional consultation in 2014, which developed a Regional Policy Framework for coordinating social protection, rural employment and agriculture, and outlined key recommendations.

WFP implements projects across the spectrum of food and nutrition security interventions, ranging from emergency relief to resilience building and safety net programmes, with the objective of ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food. WFP works to support social protection through engaging with governments and partners and building their capacity to develop a nutrition-sensitive social protection system. This work on safety nets is done in two main ways: through providing transfers for food assistance and through capacity development and augmentation activities. WFP transfer-based activities that may be employed in safety net programming consist of general food distributions; food assistance for assets; school feeding; nutrition interventions; and HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) programmes.

WFP supports national governments in designing, operationalising and evaluating cost-effective food security and nutrition-sensitive safety net and social protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable populations in fragile and challenging operational contexts; a good example of this can be found in the programme that provides fresh food vouchers for pregnant and lactating women in Syria.

WFP also works to build on its experience and expertise in designing and delivering cash-based transfers, developing and using risk management instruments and conducting in-depth cost analyses of value chains for nutrition to develop different approaches to support established national social protection systems with assistance and outreach.

WFP also provides guidance and support in food security and nutrition vulnerability analysis and mapping, and information management to help ensure safety net and social protection interventions effectively target and reach the most vulnerable and inaccessible populations.

UNICEF: In UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017, “Social Inclusion” is one of the 7 Outcome Areas. The priorities in this area include: monitoring child poverty (income and multi-dimensional poverty) and identifying the most vulnerable families and children to reduce disparities. Work on budgets and also on cash transfer schemes is a core part of it. UNICEF also supports Governments to include emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection programmes. Strategies are advocacy, policy advice, technical assistance, data collection, generation and analysis.

ESCWA: Through several publications, ESCWA examines how social protection can contribute to achieving social justice and highlights some positive strides made by Arab countries including Yemen and Sudan to maximize the impact of social protection on poverty reduction. ESCWA research argues
that social protection schemes will only be sustainable if they are grounded in a social contract that cements social protection as a citizenship right and ensures the state's responsibility for delivering this right in an effective and accountable manner.

In terms of technical support, ESCWA has completed a toolkit on “developing social protection policies using a participatory approach”. The toolkit aims at enhancing the capacities of government officials and other key national stakeholders including civil society institutions concerned with social protection programmes and services in designing, implementing, evaluating and financing social protection policy in a participatory and consultative manner, based on successful experiences from other regions. Looking at the future, several sub-regional workshops are planned for 2015 and 2016-2017 to train representatives from MCs on the toolkit and adopt it at national level.

**ESCAP**: Within the commitment to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and practitioners to formulate and implement integrated national socioeconomic policies to enhance social protection and reduce vulnerability of disadvantaged groups, ESCAP provides technical assistance and undertakes studies on social protection in Asia-Pacific LDCs. For example, the following activities are planned: South Asia Research Network (SARNET) Conduct studies on social protection and employment creation for inclusive growth in particular in LDCs such as Bangladesh and Nepal and are envisaged to be complete by Quarter 4, 2015 and a seminar on Integrating Social Protection for Inclusive Growth in South Asia, (part of South Asia Research Network on Employment and Social Protection for Inclusive Growth-SARNET) to share analysis and advocate policy recommendations from the conducted studies to increase the understanding of employment and social protection issues in the respective least developed countries.

**UNESCO** is working to provide capacity building support on developing effective, quality education systems in the LDCs. This includes identifying how social protection can support education either directly or indirectly. In LDCs, the costs of schooling represent a barrier to accessing education, and social protection interventions can have an important direct or indirect role to play in supporting children’s enrolment and attendance at school. Fee waivers and school stipends/scholarships support education directly by removing the cost of school fees for households. They are often targeted at poor households and sometimes directly at girls. Fee waivers and stipends are more common at primary school level. Unconditional cash transfers are an indirect way of supporting children’s schooling, as parents and caregivers have a choice over what to spend the income on. Studies in low-income stable countries have clearly demonstrated that school fees and other indirect costs such as books and uniforms are a key expenditure priority when households receive income support. Conditional cash transfers have also improved education outcomes when linked to children’s school attendance.

**World Bank**: Building sustainable and affordable social safety nets is another vital component of the campaign to eliminate extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. In fiscal 2014, the World Bank invested more than $1.8 billion in social protection and labor programs, and it manages a $9.9 billion portfolio with 134 operations in 72 countries. Cash transfers are becoming an increasingly important safety net tool, particularly in post-conflict and fragile societies.

The Social Protection and Labor Strategy 2012–22 aims to help countries move from fragmented programs to affordable social protection systems, to enable individuals to manage risk, and to improve resilience by investing in human capital and improving people’s ability to access jobs. Social
safety nets have an immediate impact by putting resources into the hands of the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. The World Bank supports safety net programs that protect families from shocks; help ensure that children grow up healthy and well-fed, and stay in school and learn; empower women and girls; and create jobs. Examples of safety net interventions are cash transfers, labor-intensive public works, and school feeding programs.
**SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR INITIATIVE**

Social Protection Floors (SPF) are nationally defined sets of at least four basic social security guarantees that ensure:

- **Essential health care, including maternity care**, at a nationally defined minimum level that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality;

- **Basic income security for children** at a nationally defined minimum level, including access to nutrition, education, care, and any other necessary goods and services;

- **Basic income security** at a nationally defined minimum level for persons of active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in the case of sickness, unemployment, maternity, and disability; and

- **Basic income security** at a nationally defined minimum level for older persons.

Social Protection Floors should be nationally defined through social dialogue and allow people to live a life with dignity. Furthermore, the guarantees should be established by law and regularly monitored and evaluated.

The SPF concept was formally adopted in April 2009 when the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) as one of nine joint initiatives to respond to the global financial and economic crisis of 2008. ILO and WHO were named the co-leads of the Initiative.

Since the definition of the Social Protection Floor transcends the mandate of any individual agency or development partner, the Social Protection Floor Initiative was established as a framework to help coordinate the activities of all actors working on social protection, ensuring coherence of different approaches and policy advice across sectors. The Social Protection Floor Initiative has made significant progress in this regard, forming a coalition of 19 UN bodies, international financial institutions and 14 development partners, including bilateral donors, development banks and international NGOs that cooperate and coordinate their activities at national, regional and global levels.

Social protection floors do not define new rights; rather, they contribute to the realization of the human rights to social security and to social services, as delineated in Articles 22, 25 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Articles 26 and 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, among other international legal instruments. The adoption of the SPF-I also encourages the observance of Convention 102 on Social Security (Minimum Standards) of the International Labor Organization (ILO). More recently, in 2012, the ILO Recommendation 202, ‘Concerning National Floors of Social Protection’ called on ILO Member States to establish national SPF.

*Source: [http://www.socialprotectionfloor-gateway.org/132.htm](http://www.socialprotectionfloor-gateway.org/132.htm)*
F. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges

**Context:** LDCs continue to be vulnerable to a variety of shocks, including food, fuel, financial and economic crises, and natural disasters, with LDCs having to confront challenges posed by climate change and some by conflicts that have eroded some of the development gains made by LDCs in the previous decade. Securing equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in LDCs requires building their resilience to withstand crises and emerging challenges and the impact of climate change.

At present, although LDCs are home for 12 per cent of the world population, they account for 67 per cent of climate-related deaths. The nine LDCs that are also small island developing States face an existential threat from natural disasters. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 addresses the disaster risk situation of localities and major vulnerable groups, and calls for a multi-stakeholder approach and stronger and more coherent mechanisms to build resilience. Persistent challenges include limited financial and human resources; weak capacity at the local level; poor coordination between stakeholders and a lack of information on risk assessment, monitoring and evaluation, early warning, disaster response and other disaster risk management activities; and insufficient policy coordination on integrating climate change risks into disaster risk management strategies.7

**Goals and targets of the IPoA:**

a) Build the resilience of LDCs to withstand economic shocks and to mitigate their adverse effects;

b) Strengthen LDCs’ ability to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity;

c) Build the resilience of LDCs to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters.

**F. 1 ECONOMIC SHOCKS:**

1) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical support for LDCs’ risk mitigation strategies, such as national facilities for crisis mitigation and resilience?

   **ITU, EIF, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, WFP, ESCAP, ESCWA, CFC, DESA, UNCTAD, World Bank**

2) Does your organization help support the IMF, the World Bank and regional development banks’ scheme and facilities to provide concessional lending and grants to LDCs?

   **IMF, ITU, UNIDO, WTO, WMO, UNDP, World Bank**

7 See A/70/83-E/2015/75.
Additional information: The IMF does not provide financing for risk mitigation strategies, but surveillance activities and program discussions include, where relevant, policy recommendations to mitigate risks and promote macroeconomic resilience.

F. 2 CLIMATE CHANGE:

1) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical assistance and support to LDCs to access appropriate, affordable and sustainable technologies needed for the implementation of NAPAs and NAMAs and the transfer of such technologies?

UNFCCC, ITU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCDF, ILO, WIPO, UNIDO, EIF, FAO, ESCWA, ESCAP, HABITAT, WFP, OPS, World Bank, IFAD

2) Does your organization help facilitate LDCs’ access to required resources from different environment and climate funds, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF)?

UNFCCC, ITU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCDF, UNESCO, FAO, WIPO, UNIDO, UNWTO, HABITAT, WFP, ESCAP, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD, ICAO

3) Does your organization provide financial and/or technical assistance and facilitate technology transfer to LDCs’ efforts to develop and implement national strategies for sustainable use, preservation and protection of the national environmental resources and the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems?

UNFCCC, ILO, ITU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCDF, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, UNWTO, EIF, WIPO, HABITAT, ESCAP, DESA, World Bank, IAEA

4) Does your organization provide support for measures to promote and facilitate clean development mechanism projects in LDCs to enable them to harness benefits of mitigation of climate change for sustainable development?

UNFCCC, ITU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCDF, FAO, UNIDO, WIPO, EIF, WFP, OPS, DESA, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNCTAD, World Bank, ICAO

5) Does your organization help LDCs address the challenges of livelihood and food security and health of the people affected by the adverse impact of climate change and respond to the needs of the people displaced as a result of extreme weather events, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels?

UNFCCC, ILO, ITU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCDF, IMF, EIF, FAO, UNFPA, OPS, WFP, UN HABITAT, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, CFC, ESCAP, ESCWA, OSAA, World Bank, IAEA

6) Does your organization support enhancing the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services of LDCs?

UNFCCC, ITU, WMO, WFP, UNEP, UNESCO, ESCWA, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD
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7) Does your organization assist LDCs to enhance capacities in clean energy production, trade and distribution, including renewable energy development?

UNFCCC, ITU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCDF, UNIDO, UNWTO, WIPO, UNESCO, EIF, ESCWA, SE4ALL, UN HABITAT, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD, ICAO

F. 3 DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

1) Does your organization provide financial or technical assistance to LDCs to support their disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and post-disaster reconstruction efforts, and, in this regard, strengthen sharing of knowledge and expertise as well as transfer of technology under mutually agreed terms to LDCs?

ILO, WMO, UNESCO, FAO, ITU, IMF, OPS, UNDP, UNWTO, UN WOMEN, World Bank, UNEP, ESCWA, ESCAP, WFP, UNICEF, UN HABITAT, IAEA, IFAD

2) Does your organization support LDCs to strengthen their capacity to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and to benefit from regional and international early warning systems and other information-sharing mechanisms?

WMO, UNESCO, FAO, ITU, IMF, OPS, UNDP, UN WOMEN, UN HABITAT, UNEP, ESCWA, ESCAP WFP, UNICEF, World Bank, IAEA, IFAD
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Selected activities on multiple crises and other emerging challenges

1 CAPACITY BUILDING, ADVISORY SERVICES

In mainstreaming DRR (ECA, UNICEF, WFP)

In agricultural resilience (FAO, IAEA)

Risk assessment (ICAO)

Addressing economic vulnerabilities and mitigating macroeconomic risks (DESA)

In developing national emergency telecommunications plans (ITU) and with regard to cybercrime and capacity building (UNODC)

Cities and Climate Change Initiative (Habitat)

Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (UNCDF)

Policy advice for governmental planning (UNDP, UN Women, UNEP, UNWTO)

Areas related to ICT and national emergency telecommunications plans (ITU, WFP)

Areas related to gender, women's empowerment and human rights in relation to climate change and disaster risk reduction (UN Women) areas related to meteorological services, use of renewable energy, water (WMO, UNESCO)
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Areas related to vulnerability mapping and risk assessment (ECA, WFP, WMO, UNESCO)

Areas related to disaster-resistant construction (ILO)

Technical capacity through Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (UNFCCC)

2. TRAINING

Training workshops on climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as training for LDC representatives/stakeholders from World Heritage Sites (UNESCO)

Vocational training: for women in flood-prone areas (UN Women) and construction workers (ILO)

To build expertise in disaster risk reduction strategies, preparedness and response (UNESCO, FAO, UNWTO)

3. KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND TOOLS

Capturing traditional knowledge on climate change adaptation strategies (UNESCO)


Gender and Climate Change Toolkit (UN Women)

Weather and Climate Data and Data Processing/Mapping (WMO, ECA)

Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (UNOPS)

Disaster Loss Databases (ESCWA)

Guidelines on Fisheries and aquaculture emergency response (FAO)

Studies on Bioenergy and Food Security (FAO)

4. STANDARDS AND AGREEMENTS

Designation of biosphere reserves as observatories for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for the generation of climate services (UNESCO)

Hyogo and Sendai Frameworks

5. TECHNICAL/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Roads and transport rehabilitation (ILO, UNOPS, WFP)

Reconstruction of housing, water and sanitation infrastructure (UN Habitat)

Acquisition of facilities to forecast high impact weather for DRR (WMO)

Emergency telecommunications (ITU, WFP)
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Emergency preparedness and Response (WFP)

Innovations for Climate Change Resilience (WFP)

Support for monitoring and responding to radiological emergencies (IAEA)

Support to LDCs with public health emergency of international concern (ICAO)

Collection of aviation safety and efficiency datasets and web applications to perform risk analysis (ICAO).

Climate Technology Centre and Network (UNEP)

Environmental recovery and reconstruction (UNEP)

Green Bonds (World Bank)

6. PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Climate and Clean Air Coalition (UNEP)

Caribbean and other Coastal Hazards Early Warning System (UNESCO, CTBTO, UNDP)

Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunication Cluster of IASC (WFP)

Food Security Cluster (WFP, FAO)

Low Carbon, Livable Cities (World Bank)

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (World Bank)

Collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IAEA)

**UNICEF:** interventions have been, increasingly, dedicated to humanitarian crises. At the end of 2014, the Ebola epidemic affected almost 10 million children — including three million under the age of five. And as many as 15 million children had their lives upended last year by violent conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ukraine, and the State of Palestine. The resilience work on those countries transitioning from humanitarian to development escalated in 2014. As a result, more emphasis is needed on emergency preparedness, which is critical to mounting a faster, and more efficient and effective, humanitarian response.

In 2014, UNICEF continued to support countries to achieve both humanitarian and development results in cooperation with other United Nations entities, partners in civil society and the private sector, and National Committees for UNICEF. UNICEF responded to 294 humanitarian situations in 98 countries. UNICEF assisted more than 18 million affected people to access improved water sources, 4.4 million to access decent sanitation, and 8.6 million children to engage in formal and non-formal education. UNICEF also provided psychosocial support to 3.1 million children. Amid the Syrian conflict alone, 2.8 million children were provided access to learning materials and more than 600,000 children received psychosocial support in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, as part of the No Lost Generation campaign.
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Beyond UNICEF’s deep involvement in responding to the crises in Syria and neighbouring countries, UNICEF is active in supporting migrant and refugee children in European countries. Looking ahead, UNICEF estimates that as many as 90,000 refugee and migrant women and children in Europe could be in need of assistance over the next six months. UNICEF’s action plan focuses on countries with the greatest number of children on the move. UNICEF has already ramped up its support in Croatia, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and is offering its support to governments and local partners to identify needs in Italy, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria and Germany. In countries where children are on the move but without a UNICEF country programme, UNICEF is designing country-specific action plans that can meet gaps in care and support for children. Technical support will be provided to governments and partners as requested, drawing on a team of UNICEF experts in emergency coordination, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, policy guidance and supply and logistics.

DESA: provides macroeconomic policy advice and capacity development support to a number of LDCs in the Asia Pacific region. The policy advice generally focused on addressing economic vulnerabilities, analysing trade-offs between various policy options and mitigating macroeconomic risks. DESA, for example, advised the Royal Government of Bhutan on how to resolve its current account imbalance, and a looming currency crisis, which could derail the growth prospects of the Bhutanese economy. It also organized a series of policy dialogues and capacity development workshops during 2012-2015 for officials from central banks, ministries of Finance and Planning from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar on mitigating various macroeconomic risks, including risks associated with sovereign borrowing in the international capital market, pro-cyclical fiscal and monetary policy stances during economic downturns and managing natural resource revenues. It also advised LDC governments on risks associated with weak macro-prudential and financial sector policies that can create asset price bubbles and impede real investments in the least developed countries.

IFAD: IFAD has established the worldwide largest adaptation programme for smallholder farmers, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP). Through ASAP, IFAD is making earmarked climate finance available to agricultural investment projects, increasing the resilience of at least 8 million smallholder farmers. With the help of ASAP, IFAD has made rapid progress in climate mainstreaming across its investment portfolio. To date, around half of all new country programmes and one third of all new investment designs integrate climate finance for specific adaptation actions. Through its experience IFAD has realized that poor agrarian economies with a large rural population are more dependent on climate-sensitive resources and more vulnerable. In these countries, there is a higher risk of losing development and poverty reduction gains to climate hazards. ASAP builds on the awareness that smallholder farmers are more than victims of climate change; IFAD sees them as key parts of the solution to the climate change puzzle. Poor smallholders are the group that is most exposed to the impacts of climate change, yet they are least represented in national and global policymaking on the issue. One aspect that is often overlooked in international debates is that smallholders are among the best possible clients for climate finance. ASAP allows to invest more and better in their access to weather information, disaster preparedness, social learning and technology transfer, so as to enable smallholders to be resilient, feed a growing planet while at the same time restoring degraded ecosystems and reducing agriculture’s carbon footprint.

Under the umbrella of ASAP, IFAD provides better climate information to help farmers be better
prepared for shocks and stresses and it reduces climate-related risks through agricultural diversification strategies. IFAD also makes financial services available for climate risk management through small grant programmes for farmer innovation, climate risk management and disaster risk reduction in a number of least developed countries, including Rwanda, Cambodia, Nepal and Mozambique.

In addition, it is worth flagging that IFAD hosts and supports the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM), an effort promoted under the G20 to build capacity for risk management in agriculture in developing countries through participatory diagnostics, development of solutions, knowledge-sharing and network building. PARM partners with relevant service providers to develop strategies to tackle those risks that can be managed and to facilitate the incorporation of such strategies into public policies, private sector practices and agricultural investment programmes of partner countries. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is an integral part of this initiative being the main contributor on the political level. PARM is currently focusing on sub-Saharan Africa, including Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, The Gambia and Uganda.

**UNCDF:** LoCAL is an UNCDF facility for investment in local level climate resilience that channels global adaptation finance to local governments. LDCs sit on its Board, and UNCDF operates as its secretariat. LoCAL provides a mechanism to enable the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into local government’s planning and budgeting systems; increase awareness and response to climate change at the local level; and increase the amount of finance available to local governments for climate change adaptation. The LoCAL facility connects to existing national intergovernmental fiscal transfer systems and supplements capital grants to local governments with performance-based climate adaptation funding. Communities and their local governments jointly identify the most pressing climate adaptation needs to which the supplementary transfers should be applied. The transfers can also be used for investments that promote food security – such as water catchment systems that help farmers manage droughts – or investments for climate-related disaster risk reduction and preparedness. This way, LoCAL provides a fast and effective means to channel adaptation finance to where it is most needed, while at the same time ensuring local ownership, accountability and results. LoCAL unfolds in three phases. The first phase, piloting, involves initial scoping, followed by testing in two to four local governments. The second phase, learning and consolidating, takes place in 5% to 10% of local governments in a given country. This involves collecting lessons, leveraging additional investment, and demonstrating the effectiveness of the approach at a larger scale. The third phase, scaling-up, is a full national rollout of LoCAL based on the results and lessons of the previous phases.

**IMF:** The Fund provides quick concessional financial support to LDCs affected by natural disasters under its Rapid Credit Facility. In addition, in February 2015, the IMF established a Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT). This instrument allows the Fund to provide grants for debt relief to the poorest and most vulnerable countries hit by catastrophic natural disasters or public health disasters, including epidemics. The new trust is intended to complement donor financing and the Fund’s concessional lending.

The CCRT was created by transforming the Post-Catastrophe Debt Relief Trust, which was
established in 2010 following the terrible earthquake in Haiti. The CCRT has two windows: (1) a Post-Catastrophe Relief window, to provide exceptional assistance in the wake of a natural disaster like an earthquake or typhoon; and (2) a Catastrophe Containment window, to provide assistance in containing the spread of a public health disaster.

The introduction of a Catastrophe Containment window acknowledges that poor countries with weak health systems have limited capacity to contain the wider threat posed by a public health disaster, and that the international community has a strong interest in providing extensive support to such countries. Eligible low-income countries that are hit by public health disasters would receive up-front grants to immediately pay off upcoming debt service to the IMF. The amount of grant support is capped at 20 percent of a country’s quota.

Assistance through the CCRT is available to 38 low-income developing countries eligible for concessional borrowing and that also have either a per capita income below $1,215 or, for small states with a population under 1.5 million, a per capita income below $2,430.

**ITU** responds to natural disasters and provides emergency telecommunications equipment to several Members when disaster strikes. ITU supports the LDCs and countries in special need in regard to climate-change and adaptation, assist in emergency telecommunication at the aftermath of a natural disaster; provides workshops and forums on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,

helps the LDCs for developing Universal access fund policies/legislation, emergency telecommunication plans, e-waste policies and Climate-change and adaptation. Moreover, new activities planned for supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action (IPoA) include the following: developing e-waste national and regional policies, establishing emergency operation centers, developing cybersecurity policies/legislation; establishing critical incident response team (CIRT) and developing national emergency telecommunication plans.

**UNESCO** provides support to the LDCs through its dedicated climate change initiative and action plan, which focuses on strengthening the climate change knowledge base for science, assessment, monitoring and early warning and on promoting the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, notably through freshwater research and enhanced education and public awareness. Training workshops are being organized on climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as the training provided for LDC representatives/stakeholders from World Heritage Sites on climate change adaptation for World Heritage sites in May 2014 in Nairobi (Kenya). Through its programmes on traditional knowledge, UNESCO has spearheaded work on improving the understanding of how traditional societies, such as pastoralists in Africa, have developed climate change adaptation strategies. In addition to World Heritage Sites, UNESCO designated biosphere reserves have been promoted as observatories for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for the generation of climate services.

UNESCO is providing policy support, research and technical capacity-building for disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in the LDCs in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and will be supporting the LDCs in its implementation. The Organization
is providing support to the LDCs in assessing risk from natural hazards via the development of assessment tools and hazard mapping exercises. Support for preparedness is focused mainly on supporting the establishment of early warning systems. The Organization is also providing support to the LDCs in developing disaster risk reduction strategies and in establishing standard operating procedures for various stages of the disaster cycle. Awareness raising and technical training sessions are also being provided to establish a critical mass of experts to practice DRR at the national level. Capacity building workshops for disaster risk preparedness in world heritage sites are also organized in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund.

An example of UNESCO’s work in this area is the capacity building support that the Organization has provided to Haitian agencies to recover from the damage to their monitoring and warning capabilities for coastal hazards, and to lay the ground for further improvements. It is important to note that regarding hydrometeorological hazards, this project seeks to complement WMO’s work to provide capacity development for the National Meteorological Service and National Water Resources Service of Haiti. On tsunami issues, UNESCO has partnered with CTBTO and UNDP to get Haiti fully integrated into the network of the Caribbean and other Coastal Hazards Early Warning System (CARIBE EWS), coordinated by IOC/UNESCO.

**WFP:** In 2014, by responding to an unprecedented number of humanitarian crises, WFP proved it readiness and ability to increase its capacity to provide food and nutrition assistance for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people whenever and wherever it was needed most. WFP responded to severe, complex emergencies in the Central African Republic, and the Ebola-affected West Africa, Iraq, South Sudan and the Syria region, together with major emergencies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Horn of Africa, Libya, Mali, Ukraine and Yemen — illustrating the sheer volume of WFP’s emergency work. WFP also provided vital aviation, logistics, telecommunications and other common services for the humanitarian and development community.

To prevent a health crisis from becoming a food crisis, WFP and its partners rapidly reached affected communities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. WFP stepped up and supported the wider humanitarian effort, restoring and establishing essential transport, logistics and telecommunications services necessary to operationalize the wider response throughout the region.

Increased conflict and fragmentation in Syria significantly impeded humanitarian access for WFP, particularly in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. In spite of this WFP reached an average of 4 million Syrians each month. However even with major improvements in cross-border and cross-line access, too many women, men and children in the Syrian Arab Republic remained out of reach and exposed to hunger, malnutrition and protection risks. In neighbouring countries the crisis continued to take a very heavy toll on vulnerable refugees and host communities. In partnership with the governments of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, WFP assisted up to 1.9 million refugees.

In 2014, working with over 1,100 non-governmental organizations, WFP’s emergency operations, protracted relief and recovery operations, and development activities provided direct food assistance to some 80 million of the world’s most vulnerable people in 82 countries (including in 39 of the 48 recognized Least Developed Countries). Indirectly the organization benefited many more people through its capacity development activities.
Importantly, in the last decade, half of WFP’s emergency and recovery operations have included responses to climate-related disasters. Consequently, in the last five years, 40 percent of WFP’s operations have included activities to reduce disaster risk, build resilience and help people to adapt to climate change.

Given the scale of needs, climate resilience is a priority innovation area for WFP. In 2014, the organization worked to accelerate the development of large-scale solutions to help countries and communities better manage increasing climate risks and become food-secure. Innovations brought cutting-edge tools from climate science and finance together with community leaders, national safety net programmes and WFP’s traditional food assistance tools. Most recently, in 2015, during the Global Climate Conference in Paris, WFP launched the Food Security Climate Resilience Facility, or FoodSECuRE. This Facility will be a multilateral, multi-year, replenishable climate fund designed to support community-centred action to reinforce and build resilience to increasing climate risk.

WFP has long invested in early warning and preparedness systems that enable us to respond quickly and effectively. This includes expertise in disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and vulnerability analysis and mapping. WFP supports governments in building their capacity to manage disaster risk and to improve food security by integrating innovative tools, such as weather index insurance, into traditional risk management and social protection schemes. WFP also helps bolster national disaster preparedness through an integrated system of early warning, contingency planning and finance and risk transfer tools. These integrated approaches help vulnerable countries shift from managing disasters to managing risks.

WFP also helped set up the African Risk Capacity (ARC), which is a continental sovereign risk pool that provides cost-effective contingency funding to African governments to execute pre-approved contingency plans in the event of severe natural disasters including those driven by climate change. Seventeen of the 25 signatories to ARC Establishment Agreement are LDCs. As an African solution to one of the continent’s most pressing challenges, the ARC takes on the burden of climate risk to reduce the toll experienced by governments and the farmers and pastoralists whom they protect. Developed as a joint project of the African Union (AU) and WFP, the ARC became a Specialized Agency of the AU in November 2012. ARC provides Member States capacity building services for contingency planning and operations. A nationally regulated financial affiliate, the ARC Insurance Company Limited (ARC Ltd), was established to execute the risk transfer operations. ARC Ltd uses the satellite weather surveillance software Africa RiskView, developed by WFP during the ARC design phase, to estimate the impact of drought on vulnerable populations – and the response costs required to assist them – before a season begins, and as it progresses, so that index-based insurance pay-outs, based on Africa RiskView, are triggered at or before harvest time if the rains are poor.

**ECA:** The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) joint Development Account Project on Strengthening Capacities of African Policymakers to Mainstream Natural Disaster Risk Reduction into National, Regional Development Policies, and Strategies in Africa under the Seventh Tranche of the UN Development Account Projects is considered a best practice in this area. The objective of the project was to strengthen the capacities of relevant regional, sub-regional and national entities to mainstream disaster risk reduction (DRR) into regional, sub-regional and national development strategies to contribute to meeting the MDGs and the attainment of sustainable development goals in Africa.
Project activities were mainly targeted at the two Regional Economic Communities (RECs), namely the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and their members States. In addition, project activities included a regional study and results dissemination to inform DRR mainstreaming beyond the two target RECs. The main project partners were ECA, UNISDR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Secretariat of SADC, the ECOWAS Commission, and the African Union Commission (AUC).

**UN-Habitat**, through its Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), is helping cities in developing and least-developed countries to address the climate challenge, with emphasis on a sound assessment of climate vulnerabilities and risks, planning response to climate change, good governance and practical initiatives for municipalities and their citizens. The entry point for climate action varies from city to city according to their capacities, resources, vulnerabilities and opportunities.

**UNEP**: UNEP assists governments, businesses and individuals to reduce emissions in an effort to minimize the pace and scale of climate change, and assists those nations and communities most likely to be affected to become more resilient to changing conditions.

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), part of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism led by UNEP, promotes the accelerated development and transfer of climate technologies for adaptation and mitigation. During 2014, the CTCN responded to over 20 requests for technical assistance, such as providing guidance on photovoltaic solar cell design and manufacturing.

Also in 2014, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)—a 100-member partnership acting to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) including black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons—grew in influence. The CCAC is working on 16 key measures, which if implemented by 2030 can reduce global warming by 0.6°C by 2050.

**UNOPS** contributes to environmental sustainability by mitigating adverse impacts on the environment; improving biodiversity and ecological resilience; and using renewable resources, taking into account the interactions between human development and environmental sustainability. In 2014, 51 per cent of all projects reported on one or more activities that contributed to environmental sustainability in the course of the project. In Haiti, for example, with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, UNOPS worked with the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication to rehabilitate roads following Hurricane Sandy. During those projects, debris produced from the work sites was disposed of in a low-impact manner, in cooperation with local authorities.

**WMO** has a programme in DRR and liaises with the UN-ISDR to provide an understanding on weather and climate related disasters, which now constitute about 90% of all natural disasters. WMO has a Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) through RMDP that works with WB, AfDB, to support the strategies of the Global Framework of Climate Services (GFCS), the WMO Programme on LDCs and SIDS including the integrated strategy of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) which all support: systematic observation that supports the monitoring, detection, attribution of climate change; the research, modeling and scenario prediction of climate change and associated impacts. WMO supports NMHSs with new technology in data processing of climate data.
using Climsoft software and archival of climate data using Climate Database Management Systems (CDMS). WMO supports NMHSs of developing and LDCs and SIDS retrieve climate data from old files in a process called Data Rescue (DARE) using modern technologies. WMO supports LDC and SIDS to access Green Adaptation funds to help build the NMHSs’ infrastructure to enable them provide services that support adaptation and resilience building of communities and economies to cope with adverse impacts of climate change. WMO works with NMHSs to provide Weather and Climate data to enable compilation of wind potential for renewable energy from wind power generators windmills.

**ILO** considers disaster risk reduction an integral part of sustainable development and believes that reducing risks and building back better can create decent work as well as save lives. ILO research demonstrates that there is a critical connection between decent jobs and resilient societies. Indeed, decent work approaches to local economic recovery, based on international labour standards, can be decisive for socio-economic resilience in the face of multiple hazards. ILO’s initiatives in the area of DRR promote collective preparedness, work towards prevention and mitigation and aim to strengthen the capacity of communities to respond and recover.

Following the earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010 affecting more than 3 million people and destroying Port-au-Prince, the ILO engaged in capacity building in earthquake- and hurricane- resistant construction techniques. The training programme A.P.R.A.S. (Learning to Rebuild a Solid Haiti), developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Professional Training of Haiti and based on government standard norms in seismic- and cyclonic-resistant construction, strengthened the technical capacity of foremen, skilled workers and semi-skilled workers and qualified them to participate in the rebuilding process of their country.

Through the A.P.R.A.S. training programme, which was the backbone of three large reconstruction projects, the ILO and its partners provided sustainable housing solutions and contributed to enhance the living conditions in the target neighborhoods. ILO’s efforts to advance employment and economic opportunities ultimately helped increase social cohesion and improve the socio-economic situation of the population, reducing future vulnerability and promoting greater resilience.

**FAO** has published guidelines on Fisheries and aquaculture emergency response (http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3432e.pdf). The guidelines draw on best practices and lessons learned during response to disasters that have affected fisheries and aquaculture sector. They cover general and technical areas such as: fisheries and aquaculture policy and management; capture fisheries gear, vessels and engines; landing sites, harbors, and anchorages; aquaculture and post-harvest, trade and markets. The guidelines were published in 2014 and a first Training of Trainers (TOT) course was rolled in March 23-28 2015 with 22 participants from LDCs with a view to strengthening regional and national capacities in emergency response and preparedness.

Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies: FAO assisted LDC member countries to enhance regional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management, preparedness for natural disasters and effective emergency response. This was achieved through: strengthening management information systems and communications; conducting strategic planning to implement disaster risk reduction and management in collaboration and partnership with other organizations (e.g. effective interagency coordination to prevent and control trans-boundary animal and zoonotic diseases); assessing approaches and best practices in crop, aquaculture and fisheries
insurance; providing technical and capacity-building support on biosecurity and food control systems in line with international requirements; and improving productivity on small farms and making them resilient to production risks to improve safety nets for small-scale farmers, livestock owners and fisherfolk.

Additionally, some other important issues that are being supported through projects as well as regional workshops/consultations/training relating to food safety policy development, support in establishing coordination mechanisms between Ministries/Departments in countries, safety in the food retail sector, strengthening food standard setting and participation in Codex activities, traceability, food safety emergency response planning, risk analysis, good agricultural practices – certification and accreditation aspects, strengthening inspection and testing.

Developing coping mechanism for the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security: FAO supports LDC member countries in Asia and the Pacific to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into strategies for agriculture and rural development with appropriate practices for coping with the adverse impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector. Some of the main outputs were – Regional Studies on: Bioenergy and Food Security; Analytical Framework to assist policy-makers manage the trade-offs associated with bioenergy development and competition between bioenergy and food security; sustainable bioenergy in Asia for improving resilience to high food prices and climate change; and a study on climate change impacts on rice yields in Lao PDR to gather information and knowledge products for policy-makers to better manage climate risks to the rice sector and identify adaptation needs.

Controlling and Prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases: FAO supported the strengthening of applied innovative approaches to control and prevent avian influenza and other emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (rEIDs) among animals and humans, in Asia. In addition, a regional coordination mechanism to address rEIDs was endorsed at the ministerial level through a high-level consultation with ASEAN. FAO Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) has broadened its mandate from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to other diseases and has adopted a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to promote the development of regional and national One Health strategies and action plans at regional and country levels with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and WHO to support specific disease controls (e.g. for rabies, Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and H7N9). ECTAD has become a significant platform in supporting prevention and control of existing and emerging high-impact animal and human infectious diseases in the face of rapidly evolving dynamics in the region’s livestock sector.

**World Bank:** Over the past 10 years, the World Bank has emerged as the global leader in disaster risk management (DRM), supporting countries to prepare for and manage disaster risks. Through technical and financial support for risk assessments, risk reduction, preparedness, financial protection, and resilient recovery and reconstruction, the Bank helps countries to reduce their vulnerabilities due to natural hazards and climate change. The World Bank's DRM portfolio, including co-benefits, has grown about 20 percent annually for the past four years to about $5.3 billion in fiscal 2014. During the year, 80 percent of active World Bank country assistance strategies incorporated disaster and climate risk analysis, promoting a comprehensive, multisector approach to managing disaster risk.
The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), a growing partnership of 21 countries, is the World Bank’s institutional mechanism for DRM. Working with more than 300 national, community-level, and international partners, GFDRR helps countries to mainstream DRM in development strategies and processes.

The World Bank is working to leverage both public and private sources of climate finance to support climate-smart policies and investments and to help countries and businesses adapt to a changing climate. In fiscal year 2014, the World Bank worked with 62 countries to take action on climate change. The World Bank is one of the world’s largest issuers of green bonds, which finance climate-related projects. So far, the World Bank Treasury has raised over $6.3 billion with green bonds. IBRD has issued 66 World Bank Green Bonds in 17 currencies, supporting 50 projects in 17 member countries. Examples of projects supported by World Bank Green Bonds include renewable energy installations, energy-efficiency projects, new technologies in waste management and agriculture that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to finance the transition to a low-carbon economy. Green bonds also finance forest and watershed management, and infrastructure to prevent climate-related flood damage and build climate resilience. The Low-Carbon, Livable Cities initiative assists rapidly growing cities to plan for low-carbon development, focusing on diagnostics and tools to improve planning and on new financing instruments.

**IAEA:** The IAEA and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) are collaborating in the area of food and agriculture to enhance rice productivity. The collaboration aims to develop improved rice varieties that are adaptable to adverse environmental conditions including climate change. LDCs are particularly vulnerable to environmental changes and therefore greatly benefit from enhanced support in the area of food security. An Agreement was signed in June 2015 to optimize the collaboration between IRRI and the IAEA in rice production by enabling IAEA training activities to be hosted at the IRRI training center at a discounted rate. This will benefit LDCs who now can receive preferential access to training at this center of excellence.

The IAEA is providing support to LDCs in strengthening their capabilities in emergency preparedness and response. Even for countries that do not have NPPs in operation it is critical to have capabilities to address radiological emergencies in case one occurs in the region. For example, Afghanistan was supported in developing capabilities in monitoring and decontamination of the public, responders, vehicles and equipment, as well as the establishment of command control systems and response organizations for the protection of the public in cases of emergencies.

Additionally, in response to the Fukushima NPP accident and the resulting releases of radioactivity into the environment, the IAEA launched a regional project to support member states affected by the accident in assessing the possible impact of the releases of radioactivity from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the marine environment and make scientific assessments of the data. The Agency will support Nepal in enhancing the safety of public places in areas affected by the recent earthquakes. This will include assisting Nepal in testing the integrity of critical buildings such as hospitals, schools and historical attractions, using non-destructive testing techniques.

**ICAO:** As part of ICAO’s efforts to provide assistance to States and facilitate access to financing for the development and implementation of States’ action plans to reduce aviation CO2 emissions, ICAO established partnerships with the European Union (EU), as well as with the Global Environment
The ICAO-EU joint assistance project is a Euro 6.5 million project to assist 14 States from Africa and the Caribbean, including 7 LDCs, in the development of their action plans; establishment of Aviation Environmental Systems (AES) to quantify and monitor aviation emissions; and implementation of mitigation measures to reduce fuel consumption and emissions from international aviation (http://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Documents/ICAO-EU%20Brochure_Final_nocrops.pdf). The ICAO-GEF-UNDP joint assistance project is a USD 2 million global project, including the development of guidance and supporting mechanisms to assist the identification and implementation of measures to reduce aviation CO2 emissions, and a practical pilot project in Jamaica consisting of the implementation of a measure that could be replicated in LCDs and other States.

As part of its cooperation with the UNFCCC Secretariat, the ICAO Secretariat has been developing methodologies under the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that would be applicable to aviation projects. Such methodologies can be used by LCDs and other States to facilitate the reduction of aviation emissions. Two methodologies: “Solar power for domestic aircraft at-gate operations” and “electric taxiing systems for airplanes” were developed. In November 2015 the UNFCCC CDM Executive Board approved the e-taxing methodology (https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/DB/O4DH3LM81NAPJJTYCHP3WJ8IACANEQ).

ICAO is actively engaged in activities facilitating, on a global basis, the promotion and harmonization of initiatives that encourage and support the development of sustainable alternative fuels for international aviation. The use of sustainable aviation alternative fuels as a source of clean energy is a key part of the basket of measures under consideration by ICAO Member States to achieve the aspirational goal of stabilizing emissions from international aviation at their 2020 levels. Some of these activities are described below.

During the Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF) held in 2009, ICAO and its Member States endorsed the use of sustainable alternative fuels for aviation as an important means of reducing aviation emissions. The Conference also approved ICAO as a facilitator for the development and deployment of alternative fuels through education, information sharing and the development of standardized definitions, methodologies and processes to support the development of sustainable alternative fuels. The establishment of the Global Framework on Aviation Alternative Fuels (GFAAF) was agreed to consolidate and communicate information on existing activities in the area of alternative fuels for aviation. http://www.icao.int/Meetings/caaf2009/Pages/CAAF-Documentation.aspx

Following the CAAF Conference, the Global Framework on Aviation Alternative Fuels (GFAAF) was created as a public website, accessible through the ICAO portal, where news and materials related to aviation alternative fuels are collected. The GFAAF provides a continuously updated database about activities and developments in the field of alternatives for aviation, as well as useful documentation and links, to support information sharing and dissemination for the benefit of the aviation fuels community. GFAAF is universally recognized as a useful tool to support States, including LDCs, and aviation stakeholders in their effort to develop and deploy aviation alternative fuels. http://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/GFAAF/
The ICAO “Flightpath to a Sustainable Future” initiative was launched on the occasion of the Rio+20 conference in June 2012, in cooperation with aviation industry partners. As part of the initiative, the ICAO Secretary General travelled from Montreal, Canada to the Rio+20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on four connecting flights, all using alternative fuels. As the first ever flight operation connecting passenger flights using alternative fuels, it set a record for the greatest number of passengers carried on commercial biofuel flights within 24 hours, and it was also the longest international itinerary using biofuels (11,525 km).

In preparation of the 38th ICAO Assembly, in June 2012, ICAO created the Sustainable Alternative Fuels experts group (SUSTAF) with the mandate to analyze the challenges for the development and deployment of alternative fuels in aviation and to issue recommendations to support industry and States. This group consisted of 45 experts from various geographic areas and stakeholders, including States’ representatives, NGO, industry and other United Nation entities such as FAO and UNEP. The group focused its works on the possible options to overcome the near-term challenges for the deployment of alternative fuels, and in particular on the way to address sustainability.


To respond to the remit from the 38th ICAO Assembly, the Alternative Fuels Task Force (AFTF) was created in November 2013 within the Committee for Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP). The mandate is to assess the range of potential emissions reductions from the use of alternative fuels to 2050. The task force gathers 63 experts from 15 States and 7 organizations. It works on the development of a methodology to assess fuel life cycle emissions for the purpose of ICAO’s environmental trends assessment, and will apply this methodology to estimate the emissions associated to a projected scenario for the future production of alternative jet fuels.

On 8 August 2014, WHO declared the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa to be a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” (PHEIC) and on 19 September, the United Nations Security Council described it as “threat to international peace and security”. ICAO has been involved in the response from the outset, with its Chief of Aviation Medicine participating as an advisor to the WHO Ebola Emergency Committee. ICAO chaired and coordinated the Joint Ebola Travel and Transport Task Force, which included membership from WHO, IMF, UNWTO, IATA, ACI, Cruise Lines International and the International Chamber of Shipping. ICAO provided coordinated public statements on the Ebola situation as it affected the transport sector and reviewed newly developed transport-related public health documents. Some of the actions undertaken include: ICAO signed an MoU with UNDP on “Operational Aspects of the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund”; ICAO, with IATA and ACI, worked with the WHO and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist with the development of relevant aviation-related procedures, such as exit screening processes for travellers departing from the most affected States; joint ICAO/WHO assistance visits were provided to four West Africa States under the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA); voluntary funds to support CAPSCA were received from a number of States, being Angola, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom.
G. Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building

**Context:** The lack of financial resources is one of the biggest constraints facing LDCs to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development and progress towards graduation. The low levels of per capita income, domestic savings and investment and a small tax base limit domestic resources. There is therefore a high reliance on external financial resources, including ODA, foreign direct investment, concessional lending and private flows such as remittances. Many LDCs have benefited from debt relief measures under the HIPC and MDRI Initiatives. The impact of the world economic and financial crisis, combined with food and fuel crises, has undermined development efforts of LDCs.

**G.1 DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

1. Does your organization support LDCs to build capacity in their efforts to raise domestic resources through revenue-generation and financial sector reforms, in particular through the building of transparent, accountable and fair national tax and financial management systems?

   **ODC, ILO, IMF, WMO, UNDP, UNCDF, UNEP, ESCAP, OSAA, OSSC, SE4ALL, DESA, UNCTAD, World Bank**

2. Does your organization support LDCs in the development of an efficient, effective, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector and productive capacity, and support LDCs to develop their capacity to benefit from private sector investments, to reduce the resource gap, through the provision of financial, technical and institutional assistance?

   **ODC, WIPO, ILO, WMO, IMF, UNIDO, EIF, UNDP, UNCDF, UNEP, ESCAP, ESCWA, OSAA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, World Bank**

3) Is your organization involved in efforts to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows and/or assist in the recovery and return of stolen assets?

   **ODC, IMF, OSAA, OSSC, World Bank**

4) Is your organization involved in efforts to enhance disclosure practices and transparency in both source and destination countries and cooperate in efforts in reduce illicit financial flows?

   **DESA, UNDP, ESCAP, ODC, IMF, World Bank**

**Selected activities in domestic resource mobilization**

Surveillance, financial support and technical assistance activities (IMF)

Capacity development (UNODC)

Capacity development/building(UNODC)
Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs

- UN Convention against Corruption
- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

Improvement of assets recovery frameworks (UNODC/WB)

Research and studies on strategies to enhance domestic resources and investment for structural transformation, and on enhancing the role of the domestic private sector through public-private partnerships in energy and infrastructure (ECA)

UNCDF offers “last mile” finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. Through these financing models, public resources - including ODA - lay the groundwork for private investment. UNCDF’s financing models work through two channels: 1. Savings-led financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives. 2. By showing how localized investments—through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance—can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development. Investments in local productive infrastructure in the public and private sectors mobilize domestic capital resources and recycle them back into local economies.

G. 2 MOBILIZING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING: OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Goals and targets of the IPoA:

a) Ensure the fulfillment of all ODA commitments to LDCs;

b) Ensure the alignment of aid with LDCs’ national priorities and increase the alignment of aid with LDCs’ national systems and procedures.

Questions:

1) Is your organization involved in efforts to realize the goals and targets listed above?

UNIDO, WMO, WTO, EIF, IMF, UNICEF, UNDP, UNWTO, UNCDF, ESCAP, DESA, UNCTAD, IPU, World Bank, IAEA, DESA

Selected activities on ODA:

Aid for Trade (WTO, EIF)

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)

Green Economy (UNEP)

Knowledge Platform (DESA)
Mainstreaming the IPoA for the LDCs

Campaigns (UNICEF)

Monitoring and evaluation (WTO, OSAA)

Advocacy (OSAA, UNICEF, IPU, DESA, UNWTO)

Supporting local finance solutions (UNCDF)

Tools: Guidance note on aid policies (IPU) and Information portal on ODA, Trade and other support for LDCs available at www.un.org/ldcportal. DESA is undertaking the continued updating of the LDC Portal as requested by General Assembly resolution (A/RES/67/221) on Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries.

**UNICEF** mobilizes the major part of its resources through non-core resources and the mobilization is focused on LDCs as being the most vulnerable. Through its allocative processes, UNICEF guarantees 60% of core resources allocation to LDCs. Through campaigns like A Promise Renewed (health), Scaling up Nutrition (SUN), Sanitation for All, UNICEF advocates for and mobilizes resources for LDCs.

**WTO:** In line with the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference Decision on Aid for Trade, the Aid-for-Trade Work Programme for the period 2014-2015, focuses on issues identified in global and regional value chain work as it impacts on developing countries' – and in particular LDCs’ – ability to connect to value chains (i.e. trade facilitation, trade finance, labour skills, investment environment, and infrastructure). The Aid-for-Trade Initiative is continuing to mobilize resources. The most recent figures available show that in 2012 AfT commitments reached US$53.8 billion, representing a 110% increase from the 2002-05 baseline period. Of the US$53.8 billion, 24%, or US$13.1 billion went to LDCs.

**UNWTO:** Tourism is not yet a priority for donors despite its proven impact and development potential. Between 2006 and 2013 only 0.09% of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) and 0.4% of total Aid for Trade disbursements are reported to be allocated for tourism, which does not include AfT for infrastructure (as it is not desegregated). To access Aid for Trade (AfT), developing countries, including LDCs must clearly prioritize their needs and mainstream tourism trade into their national development strategies. In return, development partners need to provide trade-related assistance and capacity building. UNWTO concentrates its efforts to secure more AfT and ODA for LDCs, by joining forces with SCTD agencies.

G. 3 MOBILIZING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING: EXTERNAL DEBT

Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

a) Achieve sustainable debt levels in all LDCs, bearing in mind LDCs’ special development needs;
b) Remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of LDCs and continue to take effective measures within the existing frameworks;

c) Provide specific debt relief measures for LDCs that are not HIP countries on a case-by-case basis.

Questions:

1) Does your organization support efforts to provide full and timely financing for the implementation of the HIPC Initiative and MDRI, including for the remaining eligible LDCs in completing the HIPC initiative process?

   IMF, ITU, ESCAP, WMO, OSAA, World Bank, IFAD

2) Does your organization support efforts to further explore the use of new and improved debt instruments and innovative mechanisms such as debt swaps?

   IMF, ITU, ESCAP, WMO, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD

3) Is your organization involved in efforts to consider taking additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based and other forms of concessional financing, including through multilateral institutions?

   IMF, ITU, ESCAP, UNDP, ESCWA, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD

4) Does your organization assist in emphasizing the need for coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate?

   IMF, ITU, ESCAP, UNDP, ESCWA, OSAA, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD

Selected activities in external debt

Surveillance and program activities that cover debt sustainability and debt management in a comprehensive manner. A new Policy on Public Debt Limits in Fund-Supported Programs took effect in June 2015 (IMF)

G. 4 MOBILIZING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

a) Attract and retain increased foreign direct investment in LDCs, especially with the aim of diversifying the production base and enhancing productive capacity;

b) Enhance initiatives to support investment in LDCs.

Questions:

1) Does your organization promote strategic and regulatory frameworks for foreign direct investment and other resource flows in this sector that include vital policy areas such as
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infrastructure development, trade and trade facilitation, research and development and transfer of technology?

FAO, ITU, WTO/EIF, ITC, ESCWA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, ILO, IMF, WIPO, UNIDO, WMO, UNDP, ESCAP, OSAA, World Bank

2) Is your organization involved in efforts to set up and strengthen initiatives to support investment in LDCs such as insurance, guarantees and preferential financing programmes and private enterprise funds focusing in particular on sectors that are needed to build up a diversified production base and encourage linkages with domestic production activities as well as employment creation?

FAO, ITU, EIF, ITC, ESCWA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, ILO, IMF, WMO, UNDP, UNCDF, OSSC, CFC, World Bank

3) Does your organization support capacity-building in LDCs, and at the regional level, aimed at improving their abilities to attract FDI, including the ability to negotiate mutually beneficial investment agreements and disseminate information about investment opportunities to LDCs?

FAO, ITU, EIF, ITC, ESCWA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, UNCDF, UNIDO, IMF, WMO, ESCAP, OSSC, World Bank

4) Does your organization support and implement initiatives aimed at encouraging investment in LDCs, such as export credits, risk management tools, co-financing, venture capital and other lending instruments, business development services and feasibility studies?

FAO, ITU, WTO/EIF, ITC, ESCWA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, UNDP, OSSC, CFC, UNCDF, World Bank

5) Is your organization involved in efforts to strengthen partnership programmes for technology transfer by fostering linkages between foreign and domestic firms?

FAO, ITU, EIF, ITC, ESCWA, SE4ALL, UNCTAD, ILO, WIPO, UNIDO, WMO, UNDP, CFC, OSSC, World Bank

Selected activities in foreign direct investment

The Fund core mandate covers issues related to current account and capital account liberalization, and its surveillance, financial support, and TA activities to promote growth include discussions and policy recommendations on regulatory frameworks for capital flows. (IMF)

Capacity development and training related to bilateral investment treaties (ESCWA)

Capacity building of investment promotion agencies (UNIDO)

Partnerships (UNIDO)
G. 5 MOBILIZING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING: REMITTANCES

Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

Reduce the transaction cost of remittance flows and foster the development impact of remittances.

Question:

1) Is your organization involved in efforts to maximize the benefits of international migration, in accordance with all relevant legal frameworks?

   ILO, UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNCDF, UNCTAD, ESCWA, ESCAP, World Bank, IFAD

Selected activities in remittances

International Transactions in Remittances: Guide for Compilers and Users (IMF)

Financial Education Training Toolkit (ILO)

Financial inclusion (ILO, UNCTAD, UNCDF)

Mainstreaming migration issues into development planning (UNDP, UN-Women)

Selected examples of best practices in areas related to mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building

**ILO:** With the help of its International Training Centre in Turin, the ILO has developed a financial education training toolkit which will be utilized in a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops to develop the knowledge and skills required for responsible budgeting, spending, saving, borrowing, and investing for migrant workers and their families. Created in 2011, this toolkit has been used in a range of LDC countries, including Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritania and Senegal, Haiti, and Cambodia to contribute to comprehensive actions towards financial security. ([http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/policy-areas/remittances/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/policy-areas/remittances/lang--en/index.htm))

**UNIDO** established the African Investment Promotion Agency Network (AFrIPANet) in order to coordinate investment related activities and attract FDI in the Sub-Saharan region. Moreover, the AfrIPANet provides capacity building to regional Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) through trainings and network linkages to the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs). To date, the Programme has covered among others: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia and is planned to be replicated in other LLDCs. In the meantime, an Investment Monitoring Platform (IMP) has been created and hosts a database of 7,000 Foreign and Domestic companies operating in Africa.

**IFAD:** In several countries IFAD targets a range of financial providers to address issues related to remittance transfer and remittance-based financial services under the umbrella of the IFAD-hosted multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR). The FFR finances projects focused on three major categories of activities: 1) Improving remittance transmission and access to remittance
services; 2) Linking remittances to financial services and products in rural areas; 3) Developing innovative and productive rural investment channels and opportunities for migrants and community-based organizations. To date the FFR has financed almost 50 projects in over 40 countries, including many least developed countries.

**EIF** provides LDCs with resources to diagnose their needs for further trade integration and benefitting from the global trading system. The timing of these studies, so-called Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies, is such that their results feed into the formulation of national development plans or strategies. These strategies are then typically presented at a donor round table or consultative group meeting for funding through the development partners. Such aid coordination ensures that LDCs have full ownership of the priorities from the Aid for Trade agenda that get funded. Mobilization of resources, both within the domestic and international platforms, is at the core of the EIF mandate. The EIF National Steering Committees are designed to include mechanisms of leveraging in-country institutions to achieve the necessary level of resources.

The EIF partnership comprises six Core Agencies and two Observer Agencies: the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization (WTO), with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as Observer Agencies. The WTO is also host to the Executive Secretariat for the EIF in Geneva.

**World Bank**: The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) arm of the World Bank Group provides political risk insurance or guarantees against losses caused by noncommercial risks to facilitate foreign direct investment in developing countries. As a whole, the World Bank has two main goals and seeks to achieve these goals primarily by providing loans, guarantees, risk management products, and expertise on development-related disciplines, as well as by coordinating responses to regional and global challenges. In fiscal year 2014, the World Bank raised USDeq 51 billion by issuing bonds in 22 currencies. Its standing in the capital markets and its financial strength allowed IBRD to borrow these large volumes on very favorable terms despite volatile market conditions. Of the fiscal year 2013 allocable net income, the Board of Executive Directors recommended to the Board of Governors the transfer of $621 million to IDA, which would continue to support the ongoing development of LDCs.

**UNCDF**: is part of a network of partners looking at new forms of remittance payments to be developed. UNCDF works on households that are receiving the remittances, to be able to get less expensive access to those resources, and promotes e-wallets and other digital technologies, to help households and individuals save those resources and connect them to the formal banking sector.

### H. Good governance at all levels

**Context**: Good governance and the rule of law at the local, national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. They are also essential for the achievement of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action.
Goals and Targets of the IPoA:

a) Strengthen good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, and democratic participation, including by enhancing the role of parliaments;

b) Strengthen and effectively implement measures to prevent corruption and to increase transparency of budgets and expenditure;

c) Enhance the institutional capacity of LDCs to ensure good governance;

d) Ensure that resources to LDCs are provided and used in a predictable, transparent and timely manner;

e) Provide continued support for strengthened and effective voice and participation of LDCs in relevant international forums;

f) Build durable peace and ensure stability, security and sustainable and inclusive development in LDCs.

Questions:

1) Does your organization support LDCs' efforts to develop their human and institutional capacities for good governance?

   ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, UNCDF, ILO, UNIDO, UNWTO, WIPO, UNESCO, FAO, WFP, WMO, ODC, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, OPS, UNFCCC, SE4ALL, DESA, ESCAP, ESCWA, OSAA, UNCTAD, IPU, World Bank, IFAD, UNODC

2) Does your organization support LDCs to strengthen national statistical capacity to design programmes and policies for sustainable development and effectively monitor the implementation of this Programme of Action?


3) Does your organization help promote policy coherence and coordination of international financial, trade and development institutions, processes and mechanisms, taking into account the diversified and special development needs and challenges of LDCs?

   ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, ILO, FAO, WTO, EIF, ITC, WIPO, UNEP, WFP, CFC, UNFCCC, ESCWA, SE4ALL, DESA, UNCTAD, UNWTO, World Bank
4) Does your organization assist in the provision of support for strengthened and effective voice and participation of LDCs in international dialogue and action on development, as well as in decision- and rule-making and standard- and norm-setting in all areas affecting their development?

ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, WIPO, UNESCO, EIF, WTO, WMO, UNFCCC, CFC, ESCAP, ESCWA, SE4ALL, DESA, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD, OHCHR, UNODC

5) Is your organization involved in advocacy or other support with regard to the ratification or accession by countries to the UN Convention against Corruption and the implementation of anti-corruption laws and regulations consistent with the Convention?

ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, UNIDO, ODC, DESA, OSAA, World Bank

6) Does your organization support the efforts of LDCs to strengthen institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for preventing corruption, bribery and money-laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by both public and private entities?

ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, UNCDF, UNIDO, WIPO, FAO, ODC, UNEP, DESA, UNCTAD, World Bank, UNODC

7) Does your organization provide appropriate assistance at the request of the recipient LDC, in accordance with the UN Charter, to help prevention and resolution, through peaceful means, including mediation, of conflict, and support confidence-building, post-conflict peacebuilding, reintegration, reconstruction and rehabilitation?

ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, UNCDF, ILO, UNIDO, WIPO, UNESCO, FAO, WMO, UNEP, UN WOMEN, OPS, ESCWA, OSAA, World Bank

8) Does your organization assist in strengthening support for LDCs affected by conflict to address country-specific needs and situations, including broad-based, inclusive and rapid socio-economic development with a focus on rebuilding national institutions and capacity, rebuilding critical infrastructure and generating productive employment and decent work for all?

ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, UNCDF, ILO, UNIDO, UNWTO, WIPO, UNESCO, FAO, WMO, EIF, UN WOMEN, WFP, UNEP, OPS, ESCWA, DESA, World Bank, IFAD

9) Does your organization assist in harmonizing and aligning assistance with national priorities of LDCs affected by conflict?

ITU, IMF, HABITAT, UNDP, UNIDO, WIPO, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, WMO, EIF, UNEP, WFP, UNI WOMEN, DESA, OSAA, UNCTAD, World Bank, UNODC

**Selected activities in the area of governance**

Advocacy and outreach to Parliamentarians on the implementation of IPoA (IPU)
Advocacy for the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (IMF)

Technical assistance in recovery and long-term reconstruction in situations of fragility, including generating productive employment and decent work for all (ILO, UNDP, UNIDO), in creating and restoring productive capacities and supporting trade (UNIDO)

Promotes the financial and fiscal accountability of the local authority to the local citizen (UNCDF), industrial capacity building, policy support and statistics, including on renewable energy (UNIDO), on the promotion of free and independent media (UNESCO), on sustainable human settlements development (UN-Habitat), on effective environmental governance and integration of environmental sustainability in development (UNEP), of local governance systems to deliver services (UNDP), on justice, police and security systems (UNDP, UNODC), public administration in the aftermath of conflict (UNDP, UN Women), electoral issues (UNOPS, UN Women), building national capacities for conflict prevention and resolution, confidence-building, mediation and dialogue (UNDP), on CEDAW reporting and implementation mechanisms (UN Women), on mainstreemng gender in all areas of governance, including pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1325 (UN Women)

Policy advice and research on broad governance issues (ESCWA, ECA), on governance-related issues of meteorological and hydrological services (WMO)

Financing for good governance practices in the public sector (World Bank)

Standards for good governance:

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation, 2014 (CFS)


Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, 2014 (CFS)


**DESA:** DESA is providing LDCs with detailed information on the LDC criteria and the LDC graduation process through various outreach activities at the global level as well as in cooperation with UNESCAP, UNDP and OHRLLS at the regional and national level. Thereby, the capacity of concerned LDCs to prepare for graduation and to engage with development partners in the graduation process is enhanced.

**IMF:** The IMF’s 2014 vulnerability analysis for low-income and developing countries (LIDCs) assessed fragile states to be the most vulnerable. Identifying fragilities in countries is important to tailor Fund support to countries’ specific characteristics, which, in turn, can enhance the effectiveness of Fund engagement. Characteristics of fragility include: institutional weaknesses, political uncertainty, resource constraints, and vulnerability to shocks. IMF engagement in countries in fragile situations includes:

- Macroeconomic and Operational Challenges in Countries in Fragile Situations
- IMF Engagement with Countries in Post-Conflict and Fragile Situations—Stocktaking (May 2015). This review examines experience in implementing the lessons drawn in the 2011 Board paper on the Fund’s engagement with countries in post-conflict and fragile situations (more commonly referred to as fragile states (FS)) and the ensuing 2012 Guidance Note. The focus is on capacity building, Fund facilities and program design, and policy support. The review identifies scope to improve the Fund’s engagement in selected areas, namely capacity building, Fund facilities and program design and policy support to help in developing alternative policy solutions appropriate to fragile states circumstances and the increased provision of staff training on fragile states-related political economy issues.

**UN Habitat:** provides the foundations for sustainable human settlements development, with an emphasis on providing solutions with relevance for least developed countries. Land is the primary asset for local governments in least developed countries and its effective management has proved impossible using orthodox tools. To address this, UN Habitat has developed alternative frameworks, such as fit for purpose land administration and the continuum of land rights, as well as tools to address specific challenges, such as the social tenure domain model and participatory and inclusive land readjustment. Increased security of tenure is a central theme, as it promotes the effective recognition of a range of human rights and governance principles and also stimulates livelihood improvement at the individual and community levels. Habitat also supports the creation of local legal and institutional frameworks that increase accountability, such as transparency in local government finance. It emphasizes systems for more effective management and service delivery, such as coordinated metropolitan governance and the formulation of good quality legal frameworks that are clearly prioritized and that are designed to function in their specific contexts. Finally, it also supports the engagement of local governments in international development processes, to ensure that their particular needs are understood.

**UNODC** promotes good governance through its specific work on terrorism prevention, with the focus on the effectively functioning criminal justice systems and legal regimes against terrorism. In particular, UNODC is strengthening the criminal justice responses of the Member States, including LDCs, to terrorism through promotion of ratification and implementation of the 19 international legal instruments related to terrorism, as well as providing assistance in setting the legislative norms through harmonization of national counter-terrorism legislation. UNODC designs capacity building programmes on a broad range of specialized thematic areas, such as countering the financing of terrorism, support and assistance to the victims of acts of terrorism, responding to transport-related terrorism offences, countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, tackling chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. UNODC is also supporting Member States with addressing newly emerging challenges related to terrorism, such as the phenomenon of the foreign terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime, violent extremism and radicalization. For this purpose, UNODC has produced 38 technical assistance tools and publications that are instrumental in the provision of the technical assistance and are fully incorporated in the programmes and activities undertaken in terrorism prevention. These include, but not limited to the counter-terrorism legal training curriculum, practical guides, handbooks and manuals on the terrorism prevention related aspects mentioned above. The assistance is provided in the form of practical workshops, study visits and train-the-trainer, as well as through the Online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform. In addition, the database with the national counter-terrorism legislation and texts of international legal instruments is publicly accessible on the web.
**UNEP:** Governing the planet’s rich and diverse natural resources and managing environmental threats in a globalized world of interconnected nations, economies and people requires stronger global, regional, national and local responses involving a wide range of actors. Effective environmental governance at all levels is critical to prompt and coordinated responses. UNEP’s mandate is to be the leading global environmental authority promoting and strengthening this governance. UNEP assists member states to implement their environmental obligations and develop their policies, laws and institutions to place environmental sustainability at the heart of development. For example, the UN Environment Assembly in June 2014, in a resolution, affirmed its strong determination to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, including timber and marine species globally. UNEP and partners, including Interpol, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization and the World Bank, and other relevant international organizations are now providing valuable assistance to countries to combat illegal wildlife trade. This stream of work seeks to restores the adverse damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, including eco-tourism and wildlife-based tourism.

**UNDP:** In conflict ridden LDCs, state legitimacy and capacity to govern is weak. Confidence in the state cannot be restored unless it is present and visibly working to improve people’s lives – in an equal, fair and transparent manner to the population’s benefit. To contribute to long-term peace and help societies to recover, the multi-agency Joint Projects help the state to deliver locally in a way that strengthens state-society relations and rebuilds trust, legitimacy and accountability. Such joint projects build the capacity of local governance systems to deliver basic service in line with priorities expressed by the population, increase representation and participation in decision making in particular of women and formerly excluded and marginalized groups, and establish coordination and communication platforms to manage contestations driven by local issues and help avoid conflict escalations. Local governance actors (civil servants and civil society) become drivers of stability and people enjoy peace and socio-economic potentials: this impacts the quality of life, reduces inequalities, and contributes to more resilient state-society relations.

The 2013 SG Policy Committee decision on Core Government Functions mandating UNDP to lead improvements in assistance to "core government functionality" in the immediate aftermath of crisis led to the development of the Restore or Reform - UN Support to Core Public Administration Functions in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict. This resource provides a comprehensive lessons-learned review of the UN’s post-conflict response in 7 country case studies. Based on the actionable recommendations in that UN-wide review, a joint UN/WB partnership on Core Government Functions was designed and funded by the UN/WB Trust Fund. Since 2014, this partnership has resulted in the development of a joint UN/WB diagnostic on Core Government Functions in the immediate aftermath of conflict. Led by UNDP, the working draft version of the UN/WB Diagnostic was completed and the partnership entered a new phase with joint UN/WB piloting in CAR and finalization of the diagnostic.

UNDP has very much targeted LDCs in the application and use of this diagnostic tool. The diagnostic has been piloted in Central African Republic, and agreement had been reached to do it in South Sudan and Yemen but deteriorating political and security conditions have forced UNDP to postpone pilots. As to the seven country case studies that formed basis for Lesson-Learned Review “Restore or Reform”, six of the seven countries were LDCs: Afghanistan, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste.
**World Bank:** New lending commitments by IBRD were $18.6 billion in fiscal year 2014 for 95 operations. Of that amount, Public Administration, Law and Justice received the largest sector commitments of $4.8 billion, which includes public sector governance. Inclusive opportunities in society are supported by good governance practices in the public sector, and the World Bank has a long history of helping countries to develop sound governance and effective institutions. In the Republic of Yemen, the government budget is now prepared using Government Finance Statistics classifications and is published on the government website when it is submitted to the parliament. The World Bank's Access to Information Policy, implemented in 2010, recognizes the right to a two-level appeals process when a request for information is denied. In keeping with its commitment to transparency, accountability and results, the Bank continues to work with local stakeholders to maximize the outreach and impact of this policy.

**IFAD:** IFAD works with local organizations adopting approaches that promote self-organizing and institutional transformation. In particular, besides facilitating the development and transformation of the institutional landscape to empower poor people, IFAD supports capacity building for a wide range of organizations of poor rural people. In addition, IFAD promotes forums for dialogue among communities, grass-roots organizations, governments, civil society and donors, with the aim to strengthen pro-poor governance and enable pro-poor institutional transformation.

**ECA:** One best practice by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which relates to good governance has been the African Governance Report (AGR). This ambitious research project was initiated in 1999 and its main objectives remain to: (a) monitor and assess progress in governance on the African continent; (b) identify and showcase good practices around a selected governance-related theme; (c) give voice and power to African populations; and (d) make appropriate policy recommendations. ECA partners with UNDP in the production of the AGR national country reports. AGR III (2013) covered 40 countries and focused on the elections and the management of diversity in Africa, while monitoring the overall good governance trends in the continent. The upcoming fourth edition of the AGR will focus on corruption, specifically by providing a critique of current corruption measurements and a comprehensive analysis of the international dimension of corruption. Such Reports continue to be critical in providing African policy-makers with a realistic snapshot of their country’s performance in the area of governance. Furthermore, in focusing on relevant topical themes, it also contributes in sensitizing populations and helping policy makers in designing adequate policies in order to address specific governance-related challenges.

**ESCWA:** In the area of governance, ESCWA’s approach focuses on assisting member states in addressing governance deficits and challenges of transition by providing substantive analysis, policy advice and knowledge sharing at the regional level. ESCWA produces evidence-based analysis and policy recommendations on the main aspects of governance, political reforms and transition to democracy in publications such as the Arab Governance Report. ESCWA’s assistance also includes analysis and capacity development for crisis and conflict management, damage and loss assessment, while highlighting the importance of developing the foundations for resilient, responsive and inclusive governance institutions. Focus is also placed in tracking and monitoring the implementation of consensus building and national dialogue efforts from a conflict sensitive perspective. In particular, ESCWA convened an Expert Group Meeting on the National Dialogue process for Yemen in 2014, while remaining engaged in assisting Yemen drafting workable socioeconomic scenarios to move out of conflict.
FAO: Twenty years after its adoption, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) remains a groundbreaking, negotiated document laying forth principles and standards for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment. Drafted by 170 nations, negotiated at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and adopted unanimously by member states at the FAO Conference on 31 October 1995, the Code remains a remarkably robust and forward-looking document and has served as the basis for strengthening good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, inclusion of artisanal and indigenous peoples, and stakeholder participation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Three of the most recent instruments regarding best governance principles and practices are the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (2014); the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests the Context of National Food Security (2012); and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Sy

UNESCO is providing capacity building support to the LDCs to promote free and independent media as a crucial means of promoting good governance. All aspects of good governance are facilitated by a strong and independent media landscape within a society. Only when journalists are free to monitor, investigate and criticize the public administration’s policies and actions can good governance take hold.

In this area, support is being provided to the LDCs in growing their national ICT industries and developing self-generated employment opportunities through UNESCO’s YouthMobile training programmes. Comprehensive UNESCO Media ICT Projects are also being supported to increase the flow of information to poor, marginalized communities. In cooperation with the African Youth Network, the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) is supporting youth in a select number of LDCs to effectively respond to contemporary challenges such as unemployment, desertification and HIV/AIDS, as well as to promote intercultural understanding and dialogue amongst ethnic groups. The IFAP is also assisting some LDCs in preparing new National Information Strategies.

Media and information literacy is also being promoted in the LDCs, including through support for the development of Press Houses, teacher trainers, repositories and websites. UNESCO is also providing support to the LDCs in developing and implementing Media Development Assessment reports. Capacity-building projects for the mainstream and community media are also being implemented to increase journalistic awareness and application of the Right to Information Act. UNESCO is also consulting with government agencies in various LDCs, including the judiciary and security personnel, to identify their role in promoting freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, and increased public awareness of the Right to Information Act.

UNCDF: UNCDF works in a number of fragile and crisis-affected countries, where its tools help to stimulate recovery. UNCDF local development finance programmes have helped to rebuild institutions and trust in local governance while also kick starting local development in Cambodia, Mozambique, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, and Uganda.

UNCDF also fosters development in fragile settings, where local governments struggle to deliver services. The Local Cross Border Initiative, for example, provides a financing mechanism for
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infrastructure and services that have cross-border impact and reach, supporting economic integration and human security in parts of West Africa.

During the Ebola crisis, working closely with UNDP in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, UNCDF helped national governments and other partners introduce technology for electronic payments and biometric identification, so that emergency workers could be paid reliably and on time.

**OHCHR:** The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council (HRC) was established by the Human Rights Council through HRC/RES/19/26 of 23 March 2012. It became operational in 2014, supporting the participation of 7 delegates and 2 Fellows in the HRC.

In 2015, the Fund, which is administrated by OHCHR, tripled the number of beneficiaries by covering the participation of 17 delegates in a regular session of the HRC and 6 Fellows in a three month fellowship programme. It has successfully assisted 32 Member States: 19 LDCs, 9 SIDS and 4 LDCs/SIDS. Some countries are both LDCs and SIDS. Those benefitting came from Africa (17), Asia and Pacific (8) and the Caribbean and South America (7). Compared to the total number of LDCs/SIDS this means that more than 40% of those countries benefitted from the Trust Fund. While in 2014 only 3 women delegates were able to participate, in 2015, due to active outreach, the number increased to 10. A Practical Guide on the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, intended to both beneficiary and donor countries, was launched in Geneva and New York, in June and November respectively. This Guide is available in French and English and on OHCHR’s web site. The Trust Fund has also been tasked to develop an e-learning to allow for the training of Government officials who cannot benefit from in-person training, as well as for those working in Permanent Missions, or in different ministries in charge of human rights in their respective capitals. Good progress has been made in developing a module on the Human Rights Council and its regular sessions. It will be launched in 2016.