ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (2011-2020)
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

July 2018
Outline

• IPOA: Objectives and Indicators Framework
• Challenges in monitoring and review of the IPOA
• Opportunities for statistical development in LDCs
Policy Document


• Structure: an overarching goal, 5 specific objectives, 7 principles, 251 actions
• 8 Priority Areas for Action
  • Goals and Targets
  • Actions to be taken by LDCs
  • Action by development partners
  • Joint actions

➢ Lack of a clear indicators framework compared to the SDGs

27. The overarching goal of the Programme of Action for the decade 2011-2020 is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category.
28. Guided by the overarching goal, national policies of least developed countries and international support measures during the decade will focus on the following specific objectives with the aim of enabling half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020:

(a) Achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in least developed countries, to at least the level of 7 per cent per annum, by strengthening their productive capacity in all sectors through structural transformation and overcoming their marginalization through their effective integration into the global economy, including through regional integration;

(b) Build human capacities by fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) Reduce the vulnerability of least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges through strengthening their resilience;

(d) Ensure enhanced financial resources and their effective use for least developed countries’ development, including through domestic resource mobilization, ODA, external debt relief, foreign direct investment and remittances;

(e) Enhance good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthen least developed country Governments’ capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development.
Priority Areas for Action

➢ Each action area has goals and targets (mostly non numerical)

• e.g. for Area (B):

59. Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following targets:
   (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.

• For each area, there are also

  o Actions to be taken by LDCs
  o Action by development partners
  o Joint actions

A. Productive capacity
   • Infrastructure
   • Energy
   • Science, technology and innovation
   • Private sector development
B. Agriculture, food security and rural development
C. Trade
D. Commodities
E. Human and social development
   • Education and training
   • Population and primary health
   • Youth development
   • Shelter
   • Water and sanitation
   • Gender equality and empowerment of women
   • Social protection
F. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges
   • Economic shocks
   • Climate change and environmental sustainability
   • Disaster risk reduction
G. Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building
   • Domestic resource mobilization
   • Official development assistance
   • External debt
   • Foreign direct investment
   • Remittances
H. Good governance at all levels
Issues around data, statistics, capacity

- Under Priority Action Area ‘**Good governance at all levels**’
  
  o Actions by LDCs

57. For the Istanbul Programme of Action to succeed, it needs to include clear targets, indicators and timetables. The Programme of Action will need to address the

  o Actions by Development Partners

(d) Continue reforming the public sector to increase the efficiency and transparency of service delivery and improve its human and institutional capacity, including statistical capacity.

23. With respect to monitoring the progress of the implementation, and the follow-up and review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, a visualization tool called the LDC Mapper and a project to engage parliamentarians more actively were announced. To strengthen least developed countries’ information and statistical tools, least developed countries will have access to an online information portal that will provide information on existing least developed country-specific international support measures. In addition, national databases on various subjects will be launched, including on traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore, and climate change and adaptation activities.
The IPOA recognizes the need for effective country-led monitoring and follow-up

43. We encourage national statistical capacities in the least developed countries to be strengthened, with the support and cooperation of the international community in order to increase significantly the use and availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, which are necessary for efficient policymaking and an effective follow-up and review. We encourage the least developed countries to carry out a stocktaking exercise to assess current statistics and data availability for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and local levels, identify data gaps and build statistical capacity to ensure that data for statistics and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals are available and reliable. Development partners and relevant international organizations should, and the partnerships are encouraged to, provide international cooperation, including through technical and financial support to the least developed countries in this endeavour.
It specifies Graduation Goals and Criteria

Criteria for Identification and Graduation of LDCs

• Per capita gross national income (GNI)
• human assets index
• economic vulnerability index

The new IPOA sets an ambitious overarching goal of enabling half the number of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020
But doesn’t specify a suite of fixed and clear indicators for monitoring Priority Action Areas in the Policy document.

United Nations system support

114. We reiterate that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General in the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and should continue to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. To this end, it should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of the least developed countries, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations system, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and should continue to provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries.
State of the Least Developed Countries Report – UNOHRLLS
Follow up of the Implementation of the IPOA for LDCs

• 4 such reports so far:
  o Productive Capacity Building in the Least Developed Countries and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013)
  o Extreme Poverty Eradication in the Least Developed Countries and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2014)
  o Coherence and Synergies between the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda (2016)
  o Financing the SDGs and IPoA for LDCs (2017)

• A mid-cycle update
Need for harmonizing indicators in reporting

- Indicator reporting developed post-hoc over time, without a clear results-chain framework for monitoring and evaluation embedded in the original policy document.

- In general, either the reported indicators are the same or the trend over the course of reports seems to suggest an increase in their number and granularity (with respect to Priority Action Areas). For e.g.

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<th>2013</th>
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Need for harmonizing indicators in reporting

• But there are some exceptions:

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Based on the statistical annexes to the State of the LDCs Report 2013,2014,2016,2017
### Need for harmonizing indicators in reporting

- Some Areas are not well represented by the reported indicators

  - Eg. Climate change and environmental sustainability (only in the 2017 report)

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<td><strong>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</strong></td>
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Based on the statistical annexes to the State of the LDCs Report 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017
Focus on key headline indicators

- Developing a suite of consistent, key headline indicators for selected Priority Action Areas.
- Regular reporting on these indicators
- Reducing overall gaps and duplication with other global/regional frameworks
- Engaging with the countries’ National statistical systems (NSS) to address data challenges (CT-GAP)

Based on the UNESCAP Regional Capacity Development Workshop, 2017
Financial Support to Statistics in LDCs remains stagnant

Financial support to statistical development received by LDCs, 3-yr average

LDCs are catching up in statistical capacity

- In 2010-2015, the average score of World Bank Statistical Capacity Index in LDCs increased by 3, from 56 to 59 out of 100. Meanwhile, the average score of all IDA countries increased by 2 from 61 to 63 out of 100.

- 22% LDCs have National statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official*

- 65% LDCs have National Statistical Plans that are under implementation but only 4% of them have a National Statistical Plans that are fully funded*

Opportunities for statistical development in LDCs

- PARIS21
  - Advocacy and advisory support

- Managing change in the 2030 Agenda and Development of soft and technical skills (CD 4.0, Leadership skills)
Dealing with data challenges should go beyond the monitoring of Global Frameworks and last on a continuous basis