PROGRAMME
AFRICA REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING
IN PREPARATION FOR THE FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (UNLDC-V)

11 - 13 MARCH 2020
BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
LILONGWE, MALAWI

WITH THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE STATE OF QATAR
SESSION 1 - FROM ISTANBUL TO DOHA

In this session, the status of implementation of the IPoA, including the remaining gaps and how they can be overcome, will be discussed. Speakers will also highlight challenges and opportunities that emerging issues, including demographics, urbanisation, global politics and emerging technologies, may have in relation to the achievement of the SDGs in the African LDCs. Participants will further reflect on new partnerships and elements that a Programme of Action should contain to address their structural constraints and support national efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

SESSION 2 - BUILDING PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

In this session, speakers will explore how peace and security are impacting development in African LDCs. Furthermore, participants will discuss mutually reinforcing dynamics of peace and development in conflict-affected countries and how to ensure a more integrated approach by the LDCs, their partners and multilateral institutions. Ways to broaden and strengthen the participation of LDCs in the institutions of global governance will also be discussed.
This session will explore the potential sources of growth to enable LDCs to achieve accelerated, inclusive and sustained growth by 2030. While structural transformation is linked to increased productivity through, among others, a growing contribution of manufacturing to the economy, services has historically been the largest contributor to GDP among the African LDCs. Speakers will highlight successful and innovative solutions to enable the African LDCs generate higher productivity and decent employment, including for women and the youth, in the era of technological advancement and the role a green economy can play in this respect.

This session will provide an introduction to IDLO’s Investment Support Programme for Least Developed Countries (ISP/LDCs). The Programme provides no cost support to LDC stakeholders including governments and the private sector who seek legal assistance in investment-related matters. The session will highlight the Programme’s objectives and areas of assistance, from negotiation and dispute settlement support to technical assistance and capacity-building. It will also illustrate the Programme’s eligibility requirements as well as the modalities to apply for legal support. The presentation will also provide recent examples of support under the Programme, and prospective projects to be rolled out in the upcoming months.

This session will discuss experiences in domestic and international resource mobilization and discusses ways to facilitate the mobilization of the required resources, including innovative finance, to promote sustainable development in the African LDCs. The discussion will provide insights on the linkages between resource mobilization and other important areas impacting the abilities of countries to leverage domestic resources and take full advantage of international support, such as financial sector reform, domestic resource mobilization, development of adequate financial infrastructure or risk reduction. It will also look at trends in the provision of support for development by development partners and Southern providers of development cooperation.
In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private resources will be important to support structural transformation and graduation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). To ensure that growth is equitable, sustainable and leaves no one behind, it is important that finance flows to the “last mile” - at the sub-national, peri-urban, household, and small enterprise levels, where development needs are greatest and where resources are most scarce. This session will explore challenges along with successful and innovative solutions for improving access to public and private finance for local governments and municipalities to scale up investments in local climate resilient infrastructure and inclusive local economic development. Speakers will also discuss approaches to improve access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including how blended finance solutions can help de-risk and unlock more commercial capital for LDC-based SMEs. A panel discussion will be followed by an interactive Q&A segment with the audience.
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09:00 – 10:45  
**SESSION 5 - ENHANCING EXTERNAL TRADE FOR AFRICAN LDCs, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION**
This session will explore how improved market access, especially through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, can boost regional and global trade of African LDCs. It will also discuss how competitiveness of African LDCs can be improved, including through access to sustainable energy and connectivity.

10:45 – 11:00  
COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30  
**SESSION 6 - ACHIEVING WELLBEING IN AFRICAN LDCs: ENDING POVERTY AND HUNGER, AND ENHANCING HUMAN CAPITAL**
This session will explore the factors contributing to the high prevalence of poverty and hunger in the LDCs and explore the multiple dimensions limiting their poverty eradication efforts. It will discuss how progress towards human development can be accelerated through addressing the structural constraints and special needs of the African LDCs.

12:30 – 14:00  
LUNCH

14:00 – 16:00  
**SESSION 7 - BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS**
This session will discuss the factors affecting the high degree of vulnerability faced by the African LDCs. It will explore how adaptation to climate change and disaster resilience efforts relate to the sustainable development of African LDCs and discuss mechanisms and approaches that could contribute to resilience building. It will also explore workable solutions and mechanisms that could contribute to a better anchoring of resilience and sustainability issues as part of a new Programme of Action.

16:00 – 16:30  
COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 17:00  
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