



UN-OHRLLS

Least Developed Countries
Landlocked Developing Countries
Small Island Developing States

United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Report of the Twenty-third meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting of the United Nations system and international organizations on the Implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031

Hybrid meeting: Room XXI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland and Microsoft teams
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Table of Contents

Acronyms	3
Introduction	4
Opening remarks.....	4
Session 1: Implementation of the Doha Programme of Action: Roadmap and Monitoring Framework	5
Introduction	5
Interventions by participating organizations	7
Session 2: Building momentum towards LDC5, Doha, Qatar, 5-9 March 2023	25
Closing remarks.....	27
Annex I: List of participants	28
Annex II: Agenda	33

Acronyms

AAAA	Addis-Ababa Action Agenda
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
CFC	Common Fund for Commodities
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DPoA	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
IACG	Inter-agency Consultative Group
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IATF	Inter-agency Task Force on Least Developed Country Graduation
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IP	Intellectual Property
IPoA	Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDC5	Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
MC12	WTO's 12 th Ministerial Conference
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHRLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
P2C	Partner to Connect Digital Coalition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNTBLC	United Nations Technology Bank for LDCs
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

The Twenty-third meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group of the United Nations system and international organizations on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade (IACG) was held on 15 June 2021 in hybrid modality, organized by UN-OHRLLS. The IACG meeting provided a platform for IACG members to discuss steps planned and underway to implement the recently adopted DPoA, including plans for the comprehensive roadmap for accelerated implementation of the DPoA and related monitoring framework.

Opening remarks

The moderator and chair of the meeting, **Mr. Sangdadorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service, OHRLLS**, welcomed participants, stressed the importance of this meeting as the first time the IACG was convened since the adoption of the DPoA. He expressed his appreciation for the contributions made by the members of the IACG during the preparatory phase of the DPoA.

Mr. Erdenebileg noted that the value of the LDC5 outcome document would ultimately be measured by its implementation – which was the topic for the first session of the meeting. The second session would be dedicated to an update on preparations for the LDC5 Conference in March 2023.

The chair noted that the Secretary-General has appointed H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, as the new High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Mr. Erdenebileg noted that OHRLLS had already undertaken a number of activities in support for prompt implementation of the DPoA, including:

- A meeting with Resident Coordinators and Member States on mainstreaming and implementing the DPoA at country level, co-organized with UNDCO;
- A meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Graduation in May to discuss the modalities of support for graduating LDCs and Graduation Support Facility;
- The launch of the joint ITU-OHRLLS Action Framework “Partner2Connect Digital Coalition”, to foster connectivity and digital transformation;
- A meeting of the network of LDCs national focal points in Kigali to discuss the implementation of the DPoA at the national level; and
- The signature of a partnership agreement between OHRLLS and the WTO to boost the participation of LDCs in the global trading system, based on the DPoA.

Session 1: Implementation of the Doha Programme of Action: Roadmap and Monitoring Framework

Introduction

Mr. Sangdadorj Erdenebileg, introduced the first agenda item on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. He encouraged participants to share during the session their plans, strategies, programmes and activities of their institutions to implement the DPoA, and any action by governing bodies, for example on the allocation of additional resources to LDCs. Before opening the floor to the agencies, he indicated that OHRLLS will provide two short presentations. The first one would introduce the “comprehensive roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA”, which was called for in the DPoA as a tool to encourage and monitor implementation. He noted that OHRLLS had circulated a draft of this document before the meeting and invited participants to provide feedback on key activities and plans for the implementation of the DPoA that could be included in the roadmap. The second presentation would provide information on the response to requests made in the DPoA to ensure consistent monitoring and follow-up and how OHRLLS planned to respond, namely with a monitoring framework.

In the first presentation, **Ms. Rita Ruohonen (OHRLLS)** highlighted the key differences between the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Doha Programme of Action. She noted the strong focus on implementation across the text of the DPoA, including paragraph 302 of the DPoA which requested OHRLLS to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA. She noted that the purpose of the roadmap was to spur and accelerate transformative action as well as to identify specific roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including the UN system, private sector, parliamentarians, civil society, youth and also development partners, International Financial Institutions and Regional Development Banks. Thus, the roadmap was intended to be a tool to encourage partnerships and alignment of support with LDC priorities. She noted the roadmap followed the six focus areas of the DPOA.

To illustrate how IACG members could populate the Roadmap, she provided an example under the focus area on science, technology, and innovation. She noted how OHRLLS has selected key targets, including doubling broadband internet, developing digital innovation ecosystems, increasing investments for digital infrastructure, or encourage technology transfer among others. She clarified the sections of the roadmap where OHRLLS was requesting inputs from IACG members, which were required by end July. These would be used by OHRLLS to prepare a draft roadmap for the next IACG meeting. The roadmap would also be shared with member states to seek their inputs. She noted that the goal was to launch the final document at the LDC5 conference in March 2023.

In the second presentation, **Mr. Joaquin Salido Marcos (OHRLLS)** provided a briefing on the initial steps taken by OHRLLS to respond to the DPoA’s call to reinforce monitoring and

follow-up mechanisms. He noted that establishing mechanisms to assess the implementation of the DPoA was a cross-cutting priority present throughout the text of the programme. The request to the UN system made by the DPoA was clear on the need to align any monitoring mechanisms with existing frameworks, such as the 2030 agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and others. The DPoA also included several considerations on the periodicity of the reporting and how the annual Secretary General Report should be built on the existing wealth of data already available in the data ecosystem of the UN.

Mr. Salido Marcos noted OHRLLS was planning to respond to this call by identifying a list of indicators that could feed into the annual reporting exercise and the Secretary General Report. The indicators should fulfill the criteria established in the DPoA, including taking into account current statistical efforts (e.g. SDGs framework), data availability, avoid additional burden for national statistical offices and frequency of updates (i.e. indicators used should be updated on regular basis, such as every 1-3 years).

He noted further that OHRLLS aimed to kick off this process through the IACG since the group's members had strong expertise as data producers and compilers. In addition to strengthening the monitoring and follow up mechanisms, the resulting framework could also support different work streams of the LDCs group such as the National Focal Points mechanism or communication and advocacy activities of OHRLLS.

To begin this consultative process, OHRLLS was requesting from the IACG to provide the following: i) views on which indicators should be included; ii) names and contact information of the staff members in the IACG members who would be the focal points for this exercise; iii) undertake with OHRLLS technical discussions on the availability frequency and quality of the potential indicators, and, once the indicators had been selected; (iv) commitment to provide the data for which they are the custodians, with the frequency agreed.

On the next steps, the IACG members were invited to share any preliminary reaction on possible indicators for inclusion in the monitoring framework, either during the session or in writing by end July 2022. After this initial feedback, OHRLLS would produce a draft mapping of the potential indicators which would be circulated in mid-August, with a further period of commenting, with the aim of preparing a revised draft by the end of October.

After the presentations, the chair of the meeting opened the floor, encouraging participants to focus their interventions on the ways in which each organization intended to contribute to the implementation of the DPoA. He also noted that statements or additional inputs could be sent to OHRLLS in writing for inclusion in the final report of the meeting.

Interventions by participating organizations

Mr. Robert Powel, Special Representative to the UN, IMF thanked OHRRLLS for the presentations and highlighted the complex context the LDCs faced to navigate their way out of the COVID 19 pandemic. The war in Ukraine and its economic and financial spillovers were creating new challenges for the LDCs including inflation, food security, and tighter financial conditions. In that context, the three dimensions of IMF's support to LDCs were policy advice, lending and capacity development, consistent with the DPoA. For example, IMF was advising policy makers in LDCs to continue to use all instruments to contain the impact of the war and the pandemic while maintaining credible policy frameworks. These advisory services were accompanied by capacity building, especially on medium-term fiscal frameworks as well as SDG costing. The work on financial inclusion was also notable in the capacity building programmes of the Fund.

He underscored that as rising food and energy prices further strained poor and vulnerable households, it was important to safeguard social spending. IMF was placing a special focus on these topics because it is important to protect the most vulnerable in the medium-term frameworks that were being established. He noted that the IMF had moved swiftly to scale up its financial support to LDCs during the COVID crisis, by increasing access to emergency financing facilities and approving new and higher access limits for concessional lending.

On the SDR allocation, he noted that last August, approximately USD 21 billion were provided to low-income countries to ease fiscal constraints and increase fiscal space to respond to the various crises. The IMF board had also approved a funding strategy to allow for higher concessional programme lending to LDCs over the medium term, and the Fund was now in the fundraising phase. To complement the SDR allocation programme, the Board had approved changes in the Resilience and Sustainability Trust to provide longer-term funding for structural change, including climate change and pandemic preparedness. The first lending operations were expected to begin later this year once initial resources had been secured.

IMF's representative stressed the challenges brought by debt. Many LDCs were facing fiscal pressures and elevated public debt levels, with some in or at high risk of debt distress. In response to the crisis, the IMF had approved debt service relief obligations for many LDCs. The IMF continued to explore ways to make debt resolution more efficient. For example, there was the need to explore ways for the G20 Common Framework to deliver more promptly. Transparency in this process was vital and the role of creditors would be critical for this effort.

In conclusion, he noted that the IMF was working to reprioritize its capacity building strategy to best support countries, responding to the various crises and to lay the foundation for the recovery, consistent with the DPoA, including its work on fragile and conflict affected states and climate vulnerable countries. The Fund recently approved a strengthened strategy for its engagement with fragile states, which included developing country engagement strategies, more field presence from IMF staff, and closer cooperation with other humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners, including other UN agencies.

Amb. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director, CFC, thanked OHRLLS for the updates on the DPoA and the preparatory work for the LDC5. He noted that the CFC supported interventions in low-income countries, giving special attention to projects targeting vulnerable regions and countries, such as the LDCs. On the current portfolio, the Fund had 10 projects operating in LDCs, contributing to economic growth, more value chain upgrades and/or productivity diversification and exports increase of these countries. The Fund also targeted interventions impacting vulnerable groups, such as people living below the poverty line. Given the challenging post pandemic scenario aggravated by the war in Europe, the CFC was doubling its efforts. He reiterated the commitment of CFC to advance the Roadmap and search for areas to contribute to the implementation of the DPoA.

Mr. Taufiqur Rahman, Head of LDC Unit, Development Division, WTO, congratulated OHRLLS and the international community for the adoption of the DPoA and remarked on the high level of ambition for LDC development in the next decade. He expressed satisfaction with the chapter on trade as it covers the key challenges that LDCs were facing. He noted there was a lot of work ahead to monitor the progress of the DPoA, both developments in LDCs as well as progress being made by LDC trading partners. Given the downgrading of growth forecasts, the goal of doubling the share of LDCs exports in the next decade would be challenging to achieve, especially as some major LDC exporters were expected to graduate over the next few years. This would require careful monitoring of this target.

He noted that efforts to increase trade capacity in LDCs would need to be redoubled to make trade integration and increase added value a driver of progress, even if that did not contribute to doubling exports. Full implementation of the trade chapter of the DPoA (including free market access, services waiver, etc.) needed regularly monitoring and discussion in relevant WTO bodies and therefore WTO would continue to update the IACG with regular information on these discussions. In terms of accession, he noted that the goal established in the DPoA was nevertheless worth pursuing, noting that since 2016, when Liberia and Afghanistan acceded, there had been no further accessions.

He also noted that LDCs would likely take center stage in the MC12 outcome document, expressing his hopes that there would be an agreement on the final declaration and that many priority areas of DPoA would be reflected. The provisions of the DPoA on graduation had gained traction in the recent WTO discussions. This was promising because for the first time the challenges of graduating LDCs were being included in the discussions withing WTO members.

He expressed satisfaction with the signature of the partnership between WTO and OHRLLS, noting it would lead to reinforced cooperation and contribute to the implementation of trade-related elements of the DPoA, as well as provide support to LDCs through joint analysis and capacity building. The trade landscape continued to evolve rapidly, with trade going digital and as well as green. Thus, it would be very important for LDCs to continue exploring emerging trade opportunities and priorities. The upcoming global aid for trade review at end July would offer an opportunity to reflect on some of these priorities. WTO was committed to working with the UN system to contribute to the broader goals of DPoA and the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chi Dung Duong, Director of Division for Least Developed Countries, WIPO, reiterated the continued commitment of WIPO to contribute as part of the UN family to the implementation of the SDGs and its associated targets by facilitating the use of IP, innovation and creativity for sustainable development in developing and least developed countries. WIPO intended to continue its contribution to the new Programme of Action for the LDCs for the next decade, and to this end had developed a specific initiative - WIPO Deliverables for the LDCs for 2022-2031, which was considered and adopted by the LDC Member States at the WIPO Pre-Conference Forum, in Geneva, in December 2021.

The newly adopted WIPO Deliverables for LDCs for the next decade aimed to provide focused, needs-based and impact-driven assistance and support for LDCs in using IP as a tool for growth and development. The overall focus of the WIPO deliverables was placed on (i) assisting the LDCs in building an enabling eco-system for promoting innovation and creativity and (ii) empowering a broad spectrum of stakeholders to create and use IPs for their endeavors.

The key priority elements of WIPO Deliverables for 2022-2031 were the following:

- Support for developing, implementing and updating national IP and innovation policies and strategies;
- Developing institutional IP policies in universities to encourage innovation and to enable closer linkages between university and industry;
- Supporting the use of IP for product branding and design for strengthening business competitiveness, in particular in agro-food, textile, artisanal, hospitality and tourism industries;
- Building skills on management and commercialization of IP assets for SMEs and start-ups;
- Support in leveraging copyright and related rights in the creative industries;
- Facilitating the effective use of patent information for research and development, as well as for technological capacity building, through sustained skills building;
- Continued support for the IP Office digitization and automation to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of their services;
- Assistance on the use of IP for holders of traditional knowledge (TK), traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) and Genetic Resources (GRs) for the protection, preservation and use of their tradition-based innovation and creativity for wealth creation and sustainable development.

Through this specific initiative, WIPO was ready to contribute with specific deliverables. Further, an in-house coordination mechanism would ensure effective coordination and follow-up on the progress made by WIPO's respective units and sectors on specific deliverables.

Moreover, in response to the requests of the LDC Member States, and to provide more targeted support on their preparation of graduation, at the initiative of the Director General Daren Tang, WIPO had developed a proposal on "WIPO's Graduation Support Package for LDCs". The Package aimed to provide targeted, substantive and impactful technical assistance to the LDCs that are scheduled for graduation. The proposed support package

focuses (i) on assisting graduating LDCs in developing and upgrading their national IP systems to meet IP-related obligations after graduation and, (ii) enabling them to harness IP and innovation for attaining graduation goals relating to structural transformation, enhancing productive capacity, competitiveness and economic diversification. It provides an overall framework with a list of available projects and activities, on the basis of which a country-specific graduation support programme will be developed upon consultation with a graduating LDC.

Later in June, the Division was planning to organize a meeting with the LDCs Group in Geneva presenting the implementation modalities of these two support initiatives for LDCs. The “WIPO Deliverables for the LDCs for 2022-2031” and “WIPO’s Graduation Support Package for LDCs” will be announced and showcased at the Second part of LDC5 Conference, to be held at the level of Heads of State and Governments on March 5-9, 2023, Doha, Qatar.

With regard to the draft Roadmap circulated earlier, he noted that the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs for 2022-2031 acknowledged the critical importance of science, technology and innovation, including inclusive and enabling innovation ecosystems. Compared to the previous one, the new Programme of Action contained more specific targets and actions relating to intellectual property, innovation and creativity. He noted further that the substantive input provided by WIPO had been incorporated in the DPoA quite extensively among the key actions and targets under the section on promoting innovation, science and technology.

He provided the following preliminary suggestions on certain actions areas reflected in “Focus area 2: Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation”:

- On page 6, the language on the key target of the DPoA on innovation eco-system had been re-formulated as to “Develop competitive digital innovation ecosystems resilient to future pandemic and fit for purpose of LDCs”. Taking into account that this target should embrace the innovation eco-system as a whole, and not only on digital innovation, WIPO proposed to keep the original text “to Promote the development of effective, balanced, inclusive and enabling ecosystems for innovation and creativity in least developed countries.” as specified in the official text of the DPoA.

Most LDCs had not been able to create enabling national IP, innovation and creative ecosystems, which is an essential promoting factor for innovation and creativity, and need to be developed and strengthened.

- On page 7, under the action area “Digital innovation ecosystems”, specific targets in the DPoA, as proposed in WIPO’s submission, referred to “promoting the development of effective, balanced, inclusive and enabling eco-systems for innovation and creativity in LDCs”. The language “digital innovations ecosystems” appeared to be too narrow in terms of scope, and thus WIPO suggested replacing it with: “Effective and enabling eco-systems for innovation and creativity”.
- On page 7, on the “Outcomes in the areas of science, technology, and innovation”, the important target specified in DPoA, WIPO suggested that “the development of

- effective, balanced, inclusive and enabling eco-systems for innovation and creativity in LDCs”, should be added as a separate outcome.
- Moreover, important aspect of capacity building in the area of promoting IP, innovation and creativity should be mentioned as a separate outcome, as “Enhanced support is provided to enable stakeholders in the LDCs to leverage IP, innovation and creativity successfully for growth, competitiveness and development”. This is because it is important to better equip with necessary IP skills the relevant institutions and stakeholders, which are central for the effective functioning of the ecosystem.

He noted that further comments would be provided in writing.

Mr. Roland Mollerus, Chief, Secretariat of the Committee for Development (CDP) Policy, DESA, congratulated OHRLLS and all the stakeholders for the adoption of the DPoA, and thanked OHRLLS for the presentations. He shared the satisfaction of the CDP on how various elements of its work and proposals had been included in the text of the DPoA, especially the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility established as a collaborative effort between DESA and OHRLLS, which hopefully would be able to be fully operational in the coming months. Preparatory work had already started with several pilot countries.

He welcomed the efforts to improve the monitoring aspect and recalled that the CDP had embarked in this effort to strengthen the information for the countries that were in the pipeline of graduating from the LDC category. Coordinating efforts with OHRLLS would be key to respond to this request from the ECOSOC to improve the monitoring framework. Likewise, strengthening cooperation was key to responding to ECOSOC’s request to the CDP to improve its consultations with countries graduating from the LCD category, which was also reflected in the DPoA. 2023 would be an important year for the CDP and the LDC country group as it would be reviewing the criteria applied to assess whether countries can be included in the category or recommended for graduation.

On the preparatory work for LDC5, he confirmed that CDP was working closely with OHRLLS to present several of their results at the Conference, including progress of the Interagency Task Force on Graduation, which was continuing to improve the way UN was assisting graduating countries to make graduation irreversible. As there were more and more countries graduating, this was acquiring more relevance, especially in the complex context that was described in previous interventions.

The CDP would provide inputs on the roadmap and the indicators. To maximize current efforts, the UN DESA Statistical Division could play an important role in suggesting indicators.

Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD, noted that the outcome document mandates UNCTAD to give an increased attention to LDCs issue, through intensifying its activities of research, technical assistance, and consensus building particularly on focus areas two, three, four, and six of the DPoA (trade, science, technology and innovation, investment, international partnerships, and structural transformation).

He highlighted some of the current technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD, such as on the AFCFTA, trade policy assistance in Laos and Cambodia and the ASYCUDA programme, and investment policy reviews. UNCTAD aimed to expand the number of LDCs benefitting from these investment policy reviews and technical cooperation activities on FDI policy.

An increasing number of countries, including LDCs, had been assisted by UNCTAD on the matters of external debt, particularly through UNCTAD's programme of debt management and financial analysis system, which aimed to help countries better manage their foreign debt. He referred to UNCTAD's research and analysis activities centered around their flagship publications, the LDCs report as well as the Economic Development in Africa Report. For some LDCs graduating or in the graduation pipeline, such as Angola, UNCTAD was carrying out various studies, including the Vulnerability Profile, the Strategy for Graduation with Momentum, and the National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment, which had been mandated in the DPOA.

With regard to DPoA implementation, UNCTAD looked forward to playing a major role and to collaborating with the UN system, particularly for the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility, in the areas of its competence. In this regard, UNCTAD also looked forward to collaborating with the initiative on the International Investment Support Center, the online university, and the platform for LDCs.

Ms. Claire van der Vaeren, Chief, Liaison and Coordination Team at UNDP, Bureau for Asia Pacific, UNDP noted that the majority of UNDP resources were dedicated to LDCs and that her office's focus was on the attainment of the SDGs by the LDCs and a smooth graduation, with a focus on finance, capacity, building, governance and on leveraging economic and social transformation. She highlighted how UNDP, in partnership with other UN agencies and donors, was supporting the development of LDCs capacities to align and mobilize finance for the SDGs and national development priorities by contributing to a recovery facility to help close the financing gap. For example, UNDP was supporting 31 LDCs through integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) to help policymakers map the landscape for sustainable development financing. UNDP was also assisting countries in a range of innovative finance instruments linked to sustainability outcomes (development of SDG investor maps, support to MSMEs, etc.).

She highlighted another lever of transformation which was the clean energy transition through the Energy Access Gap Initiative, which focused on renewables. Governance, capacity, resilience to disaster and shocks were among the multiple challenges that LDCs were facing, and these were at the heart of UNDP's support to LDC. Another critical area was digital transformation; UNDP was taking a holistic and strategic approach to digital transformation through a network of accelerator labs spanning nearly 80% of LDCs. She highlighted a particularly important regional initiative of UNDP - the support for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, which would be one of the key vehicles in enhancing trade integration in Africa.

She recommended clarifying how the different frameworks align and link with each other, notably Agenda 2030. This would facilitate the ability of countries to take an integrated approach and boost their ability to monitor systems and provide data. Thus it would be

important to link the monitoring framework to the existing SDG framework to avoid duplication in monitoring and reporting, and further taxing LDCs which were already facing capacity constraints.

Ms. Paola Albitro, Chief, Partnerships, Interagency and Intergovernmental Branch, UNDRR, noted that LDCs remained disproportionately affected by the impact of disasters, which jeopardized their development gains. Without an approach to development that addressed these flaws and vulnerability of economic, social, and environmental systems in the LDCs to a range of shocks and hazards, efforts towards the implementation of the DPoA would remain at risk to disasters. She recalled the need for disaster risk reduction to be integrated at the core of development and finance policies, legislation and plans, as acknowledged at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bali last May which was attended by representatives of 22 LDC governments and the Acting High Representative of OHRLLS, Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox.

She added that the challenge ahead would be turning words into actions by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and resilience across the implementation of the DPoA. It equally represented an opportunity to integrate DRR into new and emerging priorities for the LDCs such as ICTs infrastructure and cyber resilience, urbanization, the energy transition, and trade and finance policy. This was in addition to the long-standing challenges, such as water and sanitation, housing, and agriculture among others. This required a collective effort from the UN system at all levels: global, regional, national, and local. UNDRR looked forward to working with OHRLLS and with the IACG to continue this work.

UNDRR welcomed the Roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA and would provide, in writing, inputs on key areas, such as strengthening disaster risk governance in all sectors, increasing understanding of risk and disaster risk governance, increasing understanding and capacity for risk analysis to inform decision-making, risk-informed investment and resilient infrastructure, as well as expanding access to multi hazard early warning system in the LDCs.

She stressed the importance of including the cross-cutting issues of risk reduction and resilience in the roadmap as a way to create synergies across UN system work with the LDCs. Finally, she welcomed the DPoA indicator framework and the opportunity of using existing indicators, such as those of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.

Mr. Yusuke Tateno, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP, noted that ESCAP was currently assessing how the six focus areas of DPoA could be integrated into its work programme. Technical assistance for graduating LDCs, including mobilizing partnerships and solidarity would continue to be a priority, particularly since 10 of the 11 LDCs in the Asia-Pacific were in the graduation pipeline. ESCAP was planning to organize a workshop on “Preparation for smooth transition strategies” in Bangkok in late August, jointly with DESA, OHRLLS, and the RCOs of Bangladesh, Nepal and Lao PDR.

ESCAP’s work on structural transformation would also continue, including the studies on how to facilitate structural economic transformation and economic diversification under the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme in Nepal, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste. In the area

of trade integration and facilitation, ESCAP had been supporting Asia-Pacific LDCs in joining the *Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade*.

Regarding the Roadmap and Monitoring Framework, he thanked OHRLLS for sharing the draft roadmap. He noted that the draft where ESCAP had been identified as a lead agency for a biennial regional review for Asia-Pacific had been welcomed along with any partner agencies willing to join forces for the Asia-Pacific regional review. He noted further that the DPoA emphasized the importance of efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels, and the draft Roadmap had a clear division of labor across different levels of review processes. He therefore highlighted the importance of effective coordination across the lead agencies of these various review processes. For example, paragraph 294 of DPoA on regional review processes, which ESCAP would be part of, and which would take place every two years, would draw on national reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level. This meant that these reviews must be well sequenced one after the other during the two-year window. For this, he suggested a clear timeline, agreement among the lead agencies and some level of synchronization in terms of content and ways to track progress. This would ensure that national-level reviews could meaningfully feed into the regional-level reviews, which in turn would feed into the global reviews.

Mr. Bartholomew Armah, Chief, Development Planning, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, ECA, noted that two out of every three LDCs were from the Africa region, meaning that ECA's work largely touched on the LDCs. He highlighted four broad areas where ECA's engagement with respect to the implementation of the DPoA could be deepened. The first was in the area of trade, particularly on the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, for which ECA champions the technical assistance and analysis for its implementation. This included the area of competitiveness strategies, where ECA was assisting countries to leverage manufacturing capabilities, which was expected to increase to \$1 trillion by 2025 on account of the AfCFTA and create over 14 million jobs. The second area was finance, which was critical in the current era of declining liquidity, increasing interest rates, and heightened debt vulnerabilities, particularly in the LDCs. ECA was helping countries through the design of the "liquidity and sustainability facility", which aimed to reduce the interest rates that African LDCs pay on their sovereign bonds. ECA was also spearheading through its work with the IMF and on the creation of a new global financial architecture focused on developing countries that tend to have a high utilization rate of SDRs. Furthermore, the area of illicit financial flows which drain the continent of about \$80 billion a year was an area where ECA was working to reduce the leakages.

ECA has developed the "integrated planning of reporting tool" which strengthened the relationship between the 2030 Agenda and the 2063 Agenda. This is intended to mitigate and avoid redundancies and duplication in the alignment of these multiple frameworks in international development plans. ECA had developed a prototype of the IPRT that included a financing component, so that countries could link financing to development priorities. This would be critical for LDCs to ensure they made optimal use of their resources going forward in an era or an environment of shrinking development financing.

On the issue of climate, ECA was working closely with Egypt, the host of COP27, especially on the area of climate financing, to ensure that Africa's priorities, including LDC priorities for

COP27 were indeed met. He stressed that ECA would like to be listed as a partner in this area in the Roadmap since his office was already doing work in this area. He also stressed the importance of linking the Agenda 2063 to ensure we have an integrated perspective that takes into account the multiple agendas that countries are currently implementing. His office was ready to play a big part in the area of mainstreaming the DPoA into development plans in an integrated way.

Mr. Youssef Chaitani, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, ESCWA, noted that the focus of the Regional Commission in Western Asia had been on the LDCs in the Arab region, including assessing the impact of conflict on SDGs. ESCWA had worked with Yemen, Mauritania, Somalia and Sudan, building consensus among key actors on the foundational elements towards a common vision for the decade 2021-2030. ESCWA's strategic focus areas included the operationalization of the triple nexus approach within the public sector, strengthening risk prevention capacities and climate change, and in particular preventing or mitigating climate change from exacerbating the root causes or drivers of conflict. He confirmed ESCWA would provide written comments and suggestions and reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to support LDCs as well as the LDC5 in Doha.

Mr. Aniket Ghai, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, OHRLLS, took over the chairing of the meeting and moderated the remainder of the session.

Mr. Olivier Cattaneo, Head of Unit, Policy Analysis and Strategy, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD, highlighted that the secretariat of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), OECD would make every effort to facilitate the integration of the DPoA in the DAC development strategies. He underlined three entry points on how the OECD could support the implementation of DPoA and its roadmap.

First, on the statistical front, OECD would continue monitoring the commitments of DAC members to LDCs. The DPoA targets in terms of ODA to GNI can be taken into account in the new data collected on official support on sustainable development, including private finance mobilized to the SDGs. A second area was the inclusion of the DPoA into the agenda of the Committee and exploring concrete actions by DAC members. Thirdly, the OECD would continue to develop analytical tools tailored to the needs of the LDCs, for example, the transition finance toolkit. Building on the current joint work with OHRLLS, OECD could tailor these tools to the needs of graduating LDCs.

He noted the willingness of the OECD to contribute to aligning the DAC financing strategies with the LDC country group financing strategies. An example of this collaboration was the work with UNDP and UN DESA on the Integrated National Financing Frameworks where the three entities were pooling expertise on financing sustainable development and financial inclusion. A result of this collaboration was the forthcoming Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development, which would examine the issue of risks related to a financing divide that would leave many countries behind. The research would provide recommendations that would be incorporated into the OECD-UNDP framework for SDG alignment of finance.

He emphasized the relevance of trade noting that OECD together with other members of the IACG will undertake in July a Global Review of Aid for Trade with the LDCs as the main focus. He recalled the willingness of the OECD to continue working together with the IACG members to improve the effectiveness of support to the LDCs.

Mr. Victor Djemba, Representative, Chief, Regional Coordination Division – Africa, UNIDO, noted that since the last inter-agency meeting on LDCs, UNIDO had continued its active involvement in the preparatory process for LDC5, including through the organization of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the LDCs together with UN-OHRLLS and OACPS, last November. The Ministerial Conference served as the last global preparatory process towards the LDC5. On that occasion, the LDCs adopted a Ministerial Declaration for Accelerated Industrialization, including a position paper guiding the formulation of the next UNIDO Strategy and Implementation Plan for the LDCs from 2022-2031.

He informed that the UNIDO LDC Strategy would be aligned with the Doha Programme of Action focus areas and targets. The purpose of this Strategy was to coordinate UNIDO's concrete deliverables supporting the LDCs to implement the DPoA through a path anchored towards sustainable industrialization. In the upcoming weeks, UNIDO would start its internal and external consultations on the draft LDCs Strategy, including with UN-OHRLLS.

He informed noted that the Strategy would be presented in Doha, during the LDC5. UNIDO remained available to restart discussions on the re-scheduled Doha agenda, including the mobilization of partners for the Private Sector Forum. He welcomed the UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the DPoA and shared some preliminary key action areas where the UNIDO could have a relevant contribution, including sustainable industrialization, entrepreneurial training, digital skills, quality employment, market access, adaptation plans, and investment promotion regimes, among others. However, it is important to combine efforts with enhanced governmental support for the Roadmap, allowing LDCs to access national, regional, and global financial instruments. Detailed inputs on the roadmap would be submitted in writing to UN-OHRLLS, in due course.

In closing, Mr. Djemba confirmed UNIDO's willingness to advance the implementation of the DPoA through different means, notably multi-stakeholder partnerships, and through both North and South avenues for cooperation. In this regard, UNIDO had created this year the Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, located within the Office of the Director General. The newly established office would also aim to share and transfer successful Southern-generated development solutions in support of sustainable industrialization of the LDCs.

Mr. Simon Hess, Head, Monitoring and Evaluation, EIF, presented a number of activities that EIF had been working on. Regarding exports, his office has supported LDCs to access 52 new markets, and this has helped to result in more than \$200 million in new exports from the LDCs last year, which brought the total growth of exports to more than \$600 million. There were 64 more projects that were now aligned to trade priorities in LDCs, funded by donors and other partners, with now over 300 projects aligned to these priorities with a value of more than \$2.8 billion.

The EIF itself had now secured more than \$100 million dollars in co-funding from donors and from the private sector for LDC governments. This had been leveraged on top of EIF's support to specific projects. The EIF has been very active in supporting a number of the LDCs in their accession process, including most recently, Timor-Leste, and Comoros, as well as on the coordination of aid for trade and support from development partners towards the accession process. EIF had also been supporting Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan in their accession to the WTO.

Another key area of work was technology transfer, EIF has supported nine new technology transfer processes in the LDCs over the last year, reaching a total of over 80 technology transfer processes since the programme started, with around 30,000 people benefiting from them. EIF had established a collaboration with the UN Technology Bank, and that pilot projects in Lao PDR and Senegal were currently ongoing.

E-commerce was an area that had seen significant growth in interest in the LDCs. Last year, 17 new e-commerce initiatives were undertaken which brought the total to date to almost 80. This had contributed to improved diagnostics, new strategies, as well as direct support to implementation of e-commerce in the LDCs with a focus on MSMEs. Cambodia had recently launched a new-commerce platform, with similar initiatives underway in Senegal.

EIF would be launching its annual report at the end of June. Digital trade investments in the LDCs would be highlighted as well as the linkages between trade and environment. Trade and climate change in the LDCs for enhanced policy coherence is an important area of work since it could offer access towards climate change funding mechanisms for the LDCs.

He noted that it was very positive to see the increased focus on monitoring. Now, and in this process, he encouraged the focus on building increased skills in the mechanisms for monitoring in the LDCs themselves. The EIF had invested heavily in building this capacity, particularly within the trade ministries over the last few years, which could be further built on.

Mr. Ikuru Nogami, Advisor, Office of the Director, Division of Country Programmes, ITC, congratulated OHRLLS on the adoption of the DPoA, which would guide our collective effort to support the LDCs over the next decade. The DPoA was clearly aligned with ITC's strategic priorities. ITC was in particular contributing to the focus area 4 on "Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration" but was also supporting on other areas such as focus area 2 (on science, technology, and innovation) and focus area 3 (on structural transformation). Over the past year, ITC had continued to support LDCs through providing trade-related technical assistance on the ground and trade and market intelligence primarily through digital channels. Notably, ITC in April 2022 had published a paper on the impact of LDC graduation for Nepal. According to ITC's calculation, the country could lose 4.3% of exports because of tariff changes when it graduated from the LDC status in 2026. This underscored the importance of continued support for graduating and graduated LDCs so they could build a resilient economy to cope with changing trade and business environments after graduation. ITC noted that a resilient economy needed to build on enhanced capacity of all stakeholders along value chains, and thus ITC continued to work with holders to unleash their full potential, at micro (MSMEs), meso (business support organizations such as trade

promotion organizations and investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce and industry) and macro (policymakers) levels.

Moving forward, ITC looked forward to the second part of the LDC5 conference, which would be an occasion to reaffirm its commitment to the DPoA but also to developing partnerships. For this reason, ITC was participating in the Private Sector Forum on the sidelines of LDC5, and also planned to organize side events, all of which will allow us to strengthen existing partnerships and connect with new partners. ITC would provide a written response to the Roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA.

Ms. Ida Jallow, Representative to the UN in New York, ITU, congratulated OHRLLS for the adoption of the DPoA in March. ITU was pleased to see that a lot of the suggestions it had put forward had been reflected in the final text. This was shown by the over 50 references to digital transformation and the inclusion of topics such as digital skills, cybersecurity, ecommerce, digital inclusion, statistics and meaningful connectivity in the LDCs. She noted that ITU was working on drafting an action plan showing how the organization was contributing to the implementation of the DPoA.

On the Roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA and the Indicators Framework, Ms. Fallow highlighted ITU's willingness to start this work and thanked OHRLLS for their presentations. She also confirmed ITU would be sending written comments within the indicated deadline. She provided several examples of ongoing projects that will be instrumental to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the DPoA goals. First, she described the joint project between ITU and UNICEF called "Giga" which seeks to connect all schools to the internet. Presently the project was in the mapping phase and preliminary results indicated that a significant number of the schools that are not connected also happened to be in LDC countries. Ms. Fallow then mentioned the partnership between ITU and ILO to develop digital skills in the African continent with a particular focus in young people.

Mr. Angel Draev, ITU, provided information on the "Partner2Connect digital coalition" (P2C) launched last September. P2C is a multi-stakeholder Alliance launched in cooperation with OHRLLS and was in line with the UN SDGs roadmap for digital cooperation and the sustainable development goals. The objective was to foster meaningful connectivity globally, with the focus on the hardest to connect communities in LDCs. Organizations could submit four types of pledges (financial, policy, programmatic or advocacy) while pledges could be submitted by one organization only or jointly. The process of pledging could be done online via the pledging platform. He noted that the first in-person P2P high level digital development roundtable was held in the first week of June as an integral part of the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Kigali. For two and a half days, P2C engaged more than 160,000 participants from governments private sector, international or regional organizations, and academia. As of today, P2C had received more than 317 pledges worth an estimated more than USD 25 billion, made by 250 entities from 94 countries. Of those pledges, more than 114, worth an estimated USD10 billion had a specific focus on LDCs. He noted that the next planned events included one during the UN General Assembly later this year and another during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Romania in November 2022. Likewise, P2C had planned an event as part of the LDC5 Conference.

Mr. Casper Sonesson, Policy Advisor, UNCDF, noted that in early 2022 UNCDF presented its new strategic framework for 2022-2025 to its Executive Board, which emphasized that UNCDF mission was to serve as the UN's catalytic financing entity for the LDCs. So overall the strategic framework was very closely aligned with the DPoA with a specific mandate primarily to support LDCs.

In this regard, UNCDF worked in a range of financing areas that were relevant for the DPoA. The first was related to focus area six, on mobilizing reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments by scaling-up support in the form of concessional financing, for financing mechanisms that provided catalytic investments for small and medium sized enterprises and small investment projects.

UNCDF was deploying catalytic financing in the form of grants, loans and guarantees and through its global Bridge Financing Facility. A number of externally-managed global blended finance funds had also been set up, including the BUILD fund for SMEs in LDCs, the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF) for municipal infrastructure and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, which were all multi-million-dollar funds aiming to leverage resources from the private sector.

UNCDF planned to apply this across a number of the DPoA areas. For example, under DPoA focus area one, one of the targets was to develop sustainable food systems and to improve food security and food system finance. Consequently, UNCDF had just set up the first ever blended finance fund in Malawi, and in Rwanda, UNCDF was in the process of working with the WFP and MasterCard to establish a USD15 million blended finance facility for small businesses in the agri-value chain.

Similarly, under DPoA focus area three on structural transformation, UNCDF's financing capabilities would also help achieve several of the objectives including full and equal access to financial services and products for SMEs, thanks to the global blended finance BUILD Fund. This fund was making good progress and had secured approximately USD60 million.

UNCDF also had long experience of promoting inclusive digital economies, especially in digital financial inclusion. One of the future targets would be to focus on supporting competitive digital innovation ecosystems. For example, UNCDF would continue to implement its inclusive digital economy scorecard and help identify policy priorities to foster development of digital economies. UNCDF was also working with UNDP and other partners to perform digital finance ecosystem assessments as part of the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). Overall, UNCDF was working very closely with hundreds of private sector partners to support concrete development of digital finance and other digital solutions.

Finally, on climate finance, which was under focus area five, paragraph 212 of the DPoA identifies UNCDF Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) Facility as a key initiative to be leveraged to help countries formulate finance and implement national and local climate adaptation plans. This initiative was active in 31 countries and had channeled over USD 125 million to local governments. It was committed to at least double the amount every five years

until 2030, to meet the growing demand for climate finance. He noted that more details would be provided in writing.

Ms. Simone Rose, Senior Programme Officer, FAO, reconfirmed FAO's support to the implementation of the DPoA at all levels and expressed confidence that the DPoA would ensure accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the LDCs. She highlighted that that food and agriculture held the key to realizing the ambitions of the DPoA, as agriculture was the most inclusive and efficient tool to end poverty and hunger. She recalled the "four betters" (production, nutrition, environment and life for all), which were the pillars of the FAO Strategic Framework.

She emphasized that effective responses to the current global crises required focused attention on the transformation of agrifood systems to 'build back better' through higher productivity, diversification, greater resilience, nutrition-smart interventions and supporting a vibrant private sector, including SMEs, to create quality jobs and enable recovery.

She recalled the alarming updates the FAO Food Price Index was registering. The prospects drafted in the last bi-annual report showed that the global food import bill was on course to hit a new record of USD 1.8 trillion this year - an increase of USD 51 billion from 2021, of which USD 49 billion reflected higher prices. The LDCs were anticipated to undergo a 5% contraction in their food import bill this year, while sub-Saharan Africa and the group of Net Food-Importing Developing Countries were expected to register an increase in total costs, despite a reduction in imported volumes.

She recalled that FAO had launched the "Hand-in-Hand Initiative" in 2019, to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development to end poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Initiative had built on state-of-the-art tools, including the Hand in Hand Geospatial Platform, the Data Lab for Statistical Innovation and Big Data tools like Earth Map. As of June 2022, 52 countries had requested FAO to provide support through Hand in Hand, and of these, 35 were LDCs.

On climate change, another pillar action of the DPoA, she noted that the 170th Session of the FAO Council today approved the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change. This strategy would guide FAO's support to member countries, including LDCs, in their efforts with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation, working towards climate-resilient and low-emission agri-food systems, while striving to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

She welcomed the Roadmap and the Monitoring Framework and encouraged alignment with other UN monitoring and reporting processes to ensure coherence and consistency, and to reduce the challenge for countries that may have limited national statistical capacity and resources. FAO would provide written input on both by the indicated deadlines.

Mr. Arun Jacob, Sustainable Development Officer, DCO, welcomed the draft Roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA and expressed appreciation for the close collaboration with OHRLLS in implementation of the DPOA going forward. DCO was also pleased to note the wide-ranging commitments made by the members of this group towards implementation of the DPoA. He expressed the commitment of DCO to help land some of the

DPoA objectives in a coordinated and coherent manner at the country level working with the Resident Coordinator system.

Mr. Massimiliano La Marca, Senior Economist, ILO noted that ILO was looking forward to contributing to the implementation of the DPoA with its technical capacities expertise and capacity to convene participation of national stakeholders, in particular social partners. He noted that ILO had just produced an analytical report on LDCs launched in a joint event with OHRLLS. The report provided an overview of the state of progress and structural challenges of LDCs (trends, structural transformation, environmental norms, trade and networks, employment, and more). The report made several recommendations relevant to the implementation of the DPoA. He stressed that investing in people and eradicating poverty were key priorities for the DPoA. Focus Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 were very important to ILO as they were strongly related and connected to the work of the organization. He confirmed that ILO would review the Roadmap for the accelerated implementation of the DPoA and provide recommendations for indicators in the area of employment, creative works, social standards and protection.

Ms. Mara Murillio, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP, noted that the focus area linked to climate change was closely aligned to UNEP's mandate that was approved last year by the UN Environmental Assembly. As outlined in the mandate, UNEP would continue to support adaptation actions, environmental security and poverty eradication particularly in LDCs. UNEP would also assist countries in assessing and better reporting on their climate related national capacities including the capacity building, technology needs, financing capacities and trade trends. Science was also a key dimension of the work as integrated assessment models would be paramount in the shaping of policies. Last March, UNEP launched the World Environment Situation Room as the future UNEP online data and knowledge platform. It would enable users to visualize, interrogate, access, link and download data, information and knowledge products regarding the global environment. UNEP would contribute to both the Roadmap and the Monitoring Framework by providing comments in accordance with the timeline.

Mr. Ben Idrissa Ouedraogo, Economic Affairs Officer, OSAA, welcomed the DPoA and stood ready to support its implementation along the sister UN entities. OSAA thanked and congratulated OHRLLS for the two excellent presentations and for placing the focus on implementation. OSAA would provide its comments in writing by the deadline.

He noted that OSAA looked forward to implementation of the DPoA, especially since it was aligned with OSAA's new strategic agenda that placed emphasis on the six following cluster to advance the sustainable development and structural transformation of Africa: Financing for development; Sustainable development to deliver sustainable peace; Democracy, Resilience and Human Capital; Science, Technology, and Innovation; Industrialization, Demographic Dividend and the AfCFTA; and Energy and Climate Change.

In this context, considering the ongoing global crises facing Africa and LDCs, the Interdepartmental Taskforce on African Affairs had placed focus on addressing the role of energy as the entry point to building forward better and ensure the sustainable development of African countries and LDCs. The next meeting of the IDTFAA would take place on 27 June and 1 July 2022 on Energy Technology for Universal Access and Just Transition for Africa.

Mr. Ahmet Halit Hatip, Chief, Partnership and Inclusive Technology Development Section, UN Technology Bank for LDCs noted that the Technology Bank aimed to provide substantial contributions to the DPoA focus area 1 (promoting entrepreneurial training to young people, including through financial and technical assistance) and focus area 2 to facilitate structural transformation by easing the transfer of technology to LDCs on mutually agreed terms, including digital and environmentally sound technologies, which was a critical area for their sustainable development. As an example, he noted the Technology Bank has conducted technology need assessments in over 15 LDCs, identifying priority sectors and related needs, as well as critical technological solutions to support the SDGs in the LDCs. Based on the results, the Technology Bank has initiated the development of initiative for sustainable technology and know-how transfer. For instance, the organization has completed phase 1 of a technology transfer project for the ear care continuum in Bhutan and, given the successful results, is now looking into the possibility of replicating the project in Malawi.

He noted further that the Technology Bank had initiated the development of a “technology maker lab” to strengthen use digital skills and exposure to the new technologies. The pilot would be launched in the last quarter of 2022 in Niger and would train annually 240 students at high school age with a specific focus on young females. Moreover, as a model for transferring of know-how of the best practice to the LDCs through a demand-driven approach, the project was targeted to be implemented in nine countries within two years with the aim of establishing 40 technology “makers” lab over the next 10 years. These initiatives included critical capacity building components to ensure sustainable development and the transfer of technologies as an example of South-South cooperation.

Other key areas currently under development in coherence with the main priorities emerged from the TNAs relate to agricultural development and particularly post-harvest management, and sustainable housing. All these initiatives include critical capacity building components to ensure sustainable deployment and adoption of transferred technologies.

The Technology Bank, which was funded exclusively through country contributions, was dedicating substantial efforts to raise funds to support the LDC and relied on strong partnerships with the UN system. The Technology Bank was increasing its efforts to prototype targeted solutions to deliver effective results with its limited resources. He referred to the upcoming report on State of Science, Technology and Innovation in the LDCs, which would be launched next month.

Ms. Sylvia Hordosch, Policy Adviser, Intergovernmental Support, UN Women, noted that UN Women would support the Roadmap and provide further details in writing as requested. She noted that focus areas 1 and 3 provide important targets and action areas. She recalled that the DPoA highlighted women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making, which supported women’s equal opportunities in education, training, business, entrepreneurship and decent jobs.

The areas where UN Women can support the implementation of the DPoA include working in the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors and advancing equitable access to social protection for women and girls, among others. These priority areas should be clearly reflected in the Roadmap. She noted that prior to the pandemic, LDCs were not on track to reach the SDGs. The pandemic had hit women hard who were overrepresented in the informal sector, lacked social safety nets and had been pushed to unpaid care work and informal jobs. The implementation of the DPoA represented an opportunity to address structural barriers, including gender inequality. Women must benefit fully from the Programme's implementation across all action areas. A gender perspective needed to be integrated into all policies, programmes, funding frameworks to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs, including through the Roadmap. This required support measures to build forward better through human-rights based and gender-responsive recovery efforts and climate resilient responses. For implementation to be more effective and targeted there was a need to build on a solid evidence base and data disaggregated by sex and age and other factors with a focus on those furthest behind. Women's leadership and full and equal participation was critical to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. An **all-of-government approach** was needed for gender-responsive design, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Doha PoA across all focus areas. Similarly, this would require both targeted measures in support of women and girls in LDCs and systematic gender mainstreaming in all efforts by the UN system. UN Women indicated support for the roadmap.

Ms. Aisha Gilani, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR, conveyed congratulations to Ambassador Rabab Fatima for her appointment as UN Under-Secretary-General and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. She was confident that her leadership would steer us to a successful implementation of the Doha Programme of Action LDCs as well as to the successful conclusion of the cycles of the SAMOA Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs. She noted that OHCHR was responding to the Doha Programme of Action by including reference to the Programme of Action in some of its reports and events, by including the Doha Programme of Action in the Fellowship Programme of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, and by briefings to OHCHR country presences and desk officers on the Doha Programme of Action.

With regard to OHCHR reports, for example, the Doha Programme of Action was referenced in the Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights (A/HRC/50/51, para.11). The Doha Programme of Action would also be one of the themes discussed in the upcoming 5 regional seminars on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights (in accordance with HRC res. 47/11, para.13). Specifically, the DPoA would be a theme in the African regional seminar currently planned for November 2022.

The OHCHR Fellowship Programme of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund became operational on 1 January 2014. It had supported 172 delegates and fellows (104 women, 68 men) coming from every SIDS and every LDC but one. Currently 10 delegates and fellows were attending the 50th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Efforts could be made to arrange contact between interested agencies and these delegates and fellows in the coming days.

In terms of briefing OHCHR country presences and desk officers, OHCHR was planning to hold briefings to colleagues from OHCHR working on all human rights in LDCs. These briefings would be aimed at mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action in OHCHR work and collecting inputs for OHCHR participation in the LDC5 and for our engagement with the Roadmap for implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. She viewed the Draft Roadmap as a good start, as it provides practical guidance to our coordinated efforts to achieve the main targets of the Doha Programme of Action. OHCHR work was related to all Focus Areas, especially “Focus Area 1” and “Focus Area 6”.

Focus Area 1 related to several human rights, including the right to development, to food, to education, women rights, the rights of the child and youth, the right to water and sanitation, to housing, rights of migrants, anticorruption and human rights, right to peace, etc. There were Human Rights Mechanisms and OHCHR colleagues who specialized on each of these topics. They could be instrumental in providing guidance on the implementation of related targets.

On Focus Area 6, the 2020 joint report of the Secretary General and the High Commissioner on the right to development (A/HRC/45/21) explained how the graduation criteria related to the right to development and other human rights. The recommendations made in that report remained relevant for the successful realization of LDC5, and the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.

The [Guidelines on the right to participate in public affairs](#) could also contribute to the active, free and meaningful participation of civil society organizations and grassroots, including women, youth, indigenous peoples and minorities in LDC5. OHCHR had prepared useful [materials on human rights indicators](#) that could be used to further develop accountability for the commitments undertaken under the Doha Programme of Action.

OHCHR was organizing side events during LDC5 with partners, including Special Procedures, UN Women and others. She enquired as to the deadline for presenting the final version of the concept notes, as well as when UN Principals should confirm their presence at LDC5. She noted that OHCHR would have a new High Commissioner in the coming months, and would need time to confirm her or his availability to attend the conference.

Ms. Iulia Nechifor, Programme Planning Specialist, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO, reconfirmed UNESCO's commitment to further support LDCs and shared with participants that the implementation of the DPoA coincided with the starting of the implementation of UNESCO's medium-term strategy for the next eight years. The contributions of UNESCO to the implementation of the Doha Program of Action were already included in the medium-term strategy and counted with a dedicated marker in UNESCO's internal programming tool, which hopefully would facilitate the monitoring and reporting of UNESCO's actions to the benefit of the LDCs. On the areas of the DPoA where UNESCO could have a stronger impact, Ms. Nechifor highlighted area one, on achieving the universal access to inclusive and quality education at all levels, eliminating the gender gap in enrolment and competition and increasing the quality of education for all. She also mentioned how UNESCO could contribute

to the achievement of equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, which was an integral part of focus area 1 of the DPoA.

Another important area for UNESCO's contribution was focus area 2 "leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation", where UNESCO's work to promote innovation, research and technology and skills development, including digital skills, would be instrumental to achieve the investments required to increase human capital in the LDCs. She also highlighted focus area 5 on addressing climate change, environmental degradation and building resilience to against future shocks. She indicated that UNESCO's work in this area included the intergovernmental frameworks such as the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and other dedicated actions for early warning system and disaster risk reduction. She highlighted the importance of ensuring consistency between the different monitoring frameworks, in particular for the coordination and monitoring of the SDG's.

Mr. Moise Ballo, External Partnerships Officer, Division for the UN System and Multilateral Engagement, WFP, extended congratulations to Ms. Fatima for her appointment as the new USG. He noted the strong alignment of WFP programming with the goals of the DPoA. Echoing many of the issues raised by other members of the IACG (particularly FAO, UNDRR and UNCDF), he indicated that his organization could contribute to focus areas one (investing in people), two (leveraging the power of STI) and five (addressing climate change). WFP's work was implemented mostly in the LDCs and was aligned with national plans and the UN Development Cooperation Frameworks, including the DPoA. On the contributions to the Roadmap, WFP's representative indicated that his organization was ready to contribute to the areas of good nutrition, quality education and health coverage. Investing in sustainable livelihoods was also an area where WFP's added value could be more visible, especially through programmes to build infrastructure in rural areas and targeted support to small farmers.

He noted that WFP shared the level of ambition of the DPoA and was determined to collectively achieve the 2030 Agenda. The organization was ready to cooperate with the members of the IACG to ensure coherence and cross-pillar collaboration in a context of skyrocketing humanitarian needs. He confirmed WFP's commitment to contribute to the Roadmap and the Monitoring Framework.

Session 2: Building momentum towards LDC5, Doha, Qatar, 5-9 March 2023

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg recalled the unprecedented step to hold the Conference in two parts, due to the pandemic and the need to pave the way for prompt implementation of the new Programme of Action. He emphasized that the 2-part conference also provided several important opportunities. Between adoption of the DPoA and LDC5, there would be a full year to roll out and show case new initiatives. This provided an opportunity to showcase promising developments and make a strong call at the highest level for rapid and full implementation of the DPoA. He encouraged participants to use LDC5 to report on steps taken to launch the

many outcomes of the DPoA and use the momentum to build new partnerships and provide political impetus for new initiatives.

Regarding the logistics, he recalled that the Conference would take place at the level of Heads of State and Government. The expectation was that the number of heads of state would exceed the 40 heads of state confirmed for the earlier date, since travel restrictions had been lifted and the global levels of vaccination were higher. He further noted that the Secretary-General would attend and OHRLLS hoped that the principals of the IACG will participate too. He confirmed that the invitation letters with the new dates would be sent out shortly. After encouraging participants to bring innovative ideas and new partnerships to Doha in support of the LDCs, he opened the floor for ideas or questions on the organization and convening of LDC5.

Ms. Paola Albitro of UNDRR conveyed the willingness of her organization to come to the conference with a clear offer to support the LDC's within the context of disaster risk reduction and the DPoA.

Ms. Mara Murillio of UNEP thanked the Chair for the updates and requested to have as soon as possible the preliminary dates for the meeting of Principals as well as the events where Principals were expected to participate. This was important for the Executive Offices to plan well in advance. On the side events, she enquired whether OHRLLS was planning to have a new call for side events, or the plan was to just update the side event scheduled previously. She also inquired about the process of the negotiation of the political declaration and its timeline.

Mr. Chi Dung Duong of WIPO confirmed the participation of his organization in the LDC5 as well as their plans to organize a side event to present and showcase the new initiatives, programs and flagship projects of WIPO for the LDC'S during the next decade as well as WIPO's graduation support package for graduating LDCs.

Mr. Erdenebileg noted that the organizational arrangements, such as the overall structure of LDC5, including plenaries and roundtables would be maintained. OHRLLS would be reviewing the speakers at roundtables and would send out a separate set of invitation letters in this regard. The assignment of side events for UN entities and other stakeholders remains as planned and OHRLLS would be sending out a note to UN entities who had been given a slot to inform of the exact new dates and times of the side event slots. The note would also invite entities to confirm their continued interest to convene the side event and to submit updated concept notes. Given that the DPoA has been already adopted, some side-events would need to be updated to be more focused on initiatives and deliverables to implementation of the DPoA. He confirmed that delegations continued negotiations on the political declaration of the Conference, a process led by the Host country. OHRLLS was encouraging Member States

to come to an agreement as soon as possible and would share any updates in this regard as soon as possible.

Closing remarks

In closing the meeting, **Mr. Erdenebileg Sangdadorj (OHRLLS)** thanked participants for the valuable input provided and the important work that they were doing in support of the LDCs. He recalled we are in the most challenging of times marked by dramatic global economic trends - from growth projections, to estimates of inflation, energy, food and commodity prices swings, to stock market fluctuations - and that the LDCs were the most exposed to such a roller-coaster ride.

Yet with the adoption of the DPoA, we were embarking on an exciting new chapter for the LDCs. The members of the IACG must work hard to keep the LDCs high on the global agenda amid the many competing issues, and to ensure that the DPoA was not merely an aspiration, but a blueprint for reinvigorated action.

He emphasized the need for working closely together and expressed the hope that today's meeting had outlined some steps we could take jointly. He noted that OHRLLS was always open to feedback and suggestions on new approaches and ideas. He noted that OHRLLS would circulate the draft report of the meeting for comment as well as the draft Roadmap. Inputs of the draft Roadmap and suggestions for the Indicator Framework were kindly requested by end July, by email to ghai1@un.org, ruohonen@un.org and joaquin.salido@un.org. He concluded by assuring participants that they would receive updates on LDC5 in due course, and thanked IACG members for their participation.

Annex I: List of participants

Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

1. Mr. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director
2. Mr. Andrey Kuleshov, Strategy and Development Advisor

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)

3. Mr. Simon Hess, Head, Monitoring and Evaluation

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

4. Mr. Mickel Edwerd, Section Head, Division for Africa, Department of Technical Cooperation
5. Ms. Mio Kato, Programme Management Officer, Division for Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation
6. Ms. Lin Yang, Programme Management Officer, Division for Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation
7. Ms. Kimberley Frolov-Roessler, Programme Management Officer, Division for Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation

International Labour Organization (ILO)

8. Mr. Massimiliano La Marca, Senior Economist, Multilateral Cooperation Department

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

9. Mr. Robert Powell, Special Representative to the UN

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

10. Ms. Ida Jallow, Representative to the UN in New York
11. Mr. Angel Draev

International Trade Centre (ITC)

12. Mr. Ikuru Nogami, Advisor, Office of the Director, Division of Country Programmes

Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA)

13. Mr. Kavazeua Katjomuise, Senior Economic Affairs Officer
14. Mr. Ben Idrissa Ouedraogo, Economic Affairs Officer

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

15. Ms. Aisha Gilani, Human Rights Officer

Organisation for Economic Cooperation (OECD)

16. Mr. Olivier Cattaneo, Head of Unit, Policy Analysis and Strategy, Development Co-operation Directorate
17. Mr. Abdoulaye Fabregas, Economist

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

18. Mr. Casper Sonesson, Policy Advisor
19. Ms. Laura Sennett, Policy Specialist

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

20. Mr. Junior Davis, Head, Policy Analysis and Research Branch
21. Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes
22. Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert, Economic Affairs Officer
23. Mr. Tao Qi, Intern

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

24. Mr. Roland Mollerus, Chief, Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy

United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)

25. Mr. Arun Jacob, Sustainable Development Officer

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

26. Ms. Claire van der Vaeren, Chief, Liaison and Coordination Team at UNDP, Bureau for Asia Pacific
27. Mr. El Hadji Fall, Strategic Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa,
28. Mr. Jakob Schemel, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

29. Ms. Iulia Nechifor, Programme Planning Specialist, Bureau of Strategic Planning

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

30. Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division
31. Mr. Yusuke Tateno, Economic Affairs Officer
32. Mr. Nyingtob Norbu, Economic Affairs Officer
33. Ms. Symone McCollin-Norris, Consultant

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)

- 34. Mr. Youssef Chaitani, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, Governance and Conflict Prevention Cluster
- 35. Ms. Hend El Khatib, Governance and Public Administration Officer, Governance and Conflict Prevention Cluster

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

- 36. Mr. Bartholomew Armah, Chief of Development Planning, Macroeconomics and Governance Division

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- 37. Ms. Mara Murillo, Senior Programme Officer, New York Office
- 38. Ms. Angela Mwandia, Programme Management Officer

United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

- 39. Ms. Simmone Rose, Senior Programme Officer, Office of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) (OSL)
- 40. Mr. Shen Hong, Liaison Officer, FAOLON
- 41. Ms. Cristina Alderighi, Programme Officer, OSL
- 42. Ms. Doris Ngirwa, Sustainable Development consultant, FAOLON

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- 43. Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief, Regional Coordination Division – Africa
- 44. Ms. Roxana Vataselu-Jitariu, Project Associate

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

- 45. Ms. Paola Albrito, Chief, Partnerships, Interagency and Intergovernmental Branch
- 46. Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Chief, New York Liaison Office
- 47. Mr. Huw Beynon, Liaison Officer, New York Liaison Office
- 48. Ms. Thiksana Yogaraja, Intern

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

- 49. Mr. Markus Woltran, Programme Officer, Office of the Director
- 50. Mr. Martin Hilljegerdes, Information Management and Media Officer

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

- 51. Ms. Celia Keller
- 52. Ms. Sarah O'Neil, Partnerships Assistant

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

53. Ms. Sumeeta Banerji, Policy Specialist

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

54. Ms. Petal Thomas, Multilateral and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Policy and Strategy Division (PSD)

United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

55. Mr. Ahmet Halit Hatip, Chief, Partnership and Inclusive Technology Development Section

56. Ms. Chen-Wen Cheng, Public Information Officer

57. Ms. Federica Falomi, Associate Programme Officer

UN Women

58. Ms. Sylvia Hordosch, Policy Adviser, Intergovernmental Support

World Bank

59. Ms. Joelle El Sawalhi, Research Analyst

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

60. Chi Dung Duong, Director, Division for Least Developed Countries, Regional and National Development Sector

61. Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig, Senior Counsellor, Division for Least Developed Countries, Regional and National Development Sector

62. Mr. SOK Jong Myong, Programme Officer, Division for Least Developed Countries

World Food Programme (WFP)

63. Mr. Moise Ballo, External Partnerships Officer, Division for the UN System and Multilateral Engagement

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

64. Ms. Rosanne Watson, Programme Officer

65. Ms. Rosa Alba Ruffo, Partnerships Officer

World Trade Organization (WTO)

66. Mr. Taufiqur Rahman, Head of LDC Unit, Development Division

67. Ms. Daria Shatskova, Legal/Economic Affairs Officer, Development Division

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)

- 68. Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief
- 69. Mr. Aniket Ghai, Senior Economic Affairs Officer
- 70. Mr. Abdul Alim, Senior Economic Affairs Officer
- 71. Mr. Tomas Manuel Gonzalez Alvarez, Programme Management Officer
- 72. Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Programme Management Officer
- 73. Ms. Rita Ruohonen, Programme Management Officer
- 74. Ms. Erica Carroll-Ogunka, Economic Affairs Officer
- 75. Mr. Joaquin Salido Marcos, Economic Affairs Officer
- 76. Ms. Eva Marie Vestergaard, Associate Expert
- 77. Mr. Anthony Flores, Programme Management Assistant
- 78. Mr. Nicolas Viossat, Intern

Annex II: Agenda

Twenty-third Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting of the United Nations system and international organizations on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

15 June 2022, 14:00-17:30 Geneva time

Room XXI, Palais des Nations

Hybrid meeting, with Teams connection

Agenda

14:00 – 14:15	Opening: Welcome remarks by Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
14:15 – 17:00	Session 1: Implementation of the Doha Programme of Action: Roadmap and Monitoring Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- draft Roadmap on implementation of the DPoA- draft DPoA Monitoring Framework IACG members will be invited to provide information on steps they are taking to implement the new Programme of Action, as well as initial comments on the draft Roadmap and Monitoring Framework (written feedback requested by end July 2022).
17:00 - 17:20	Session 2: Building momentum towards LDC5, Doha, Qatar, 5-9 March 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on preparations for LDC5 in March 2023, including on steps taken and major initiatives and outcomes to be showcased in Doha.
17:20 - 17:25	AOB
17:25 - 17:30	Closing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
