



The Commonwealth

Concept Note LDC IV Monitor Expert Group Meeting Johannesburg: 25 June 2015

I. Design of the Next Phase of the *LDC IV Monitor*

The *LDC IV Monitor*, an independent partnership of eight development organisations, aims for effective implementation of commitments to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through tracking the implementation record of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA). It can claim significant success in this regard since its launch in September 2011. The two volumes, namely, “Istanbul Program of Action for the LDCs (2011-2020): Monitoring Deliverables, Tracking Progress – *Analytical Perspectives*” and “Istanbul Program of Action for the LDCs (2011-2020): Monitoring Deliverables, Tracking Progress– *Synthesis Report*” embodying the research outputs emerging from this initiative, have benchmarked and captured the progress made as regards some of the key deliverables of the IPoA. The work of the *LDC IV Monitor* has received high appreciation from all concerned quarters as an important endeavour to advance the cause of the LDCs in multilateral fora.

To continue with the task of monitoring the IPoA delivery, the need for next phase of the LDC IV Monitor initiative is being felt acutely at present, particularly in view of the upcoming mid-term review (MTR) of the IPoA envisaged to be held in mid-2016 in Anatolia, Turkey. The proposed next phase aims to contribute to this MTR by undertaking an analytical and empirical exercise with a view to providing inputs to the official review process as well as to improve the understanding of the state of implement of the IPoA along with its attendant challenges. The need to do the above has also become pertinent in the context of shaping the post-2015 international development agenda involving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are expected to reflect the development challenges of the countries in special needs in general and the LDCs in particular. The relevant upcoming events in this regard are the meeting in Addis Ababa (July 2015) on Financing for Development (FfD) as well as the Tenth WTO Ministerial Meeting (Nairobi, December 2015), and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Paris (December 2015).

Scope of Work

The scope of work will have the following specific elements.

- i. Review of the state of delivery of IPoA till 2015
- ii. Integrating post-2015 international development agenda (SDGs) with IPoA
- iii. Effectiveness of institutional aspects of IPoA implementation
- iv. Any other issue to be identified at the first expert group meeting.

To undertake necessary work in the above context, LDC IV Monitor in its proposed next phase needs to organise itself and work out a plan in consultation with its partners and other concerned stakeholders (e.g. UN OHRLLS). The work plan tentatively envisages the following activities:

- i. Organisation of meetings of partners and other experts to conceptualise and provide inputs for drafting of an outcome document;
- ii. Drafting of the outcome document as an input to the MTR in Istanbul; and
- iii. Publication, and dissemination of the outcome document particularly at a high profile side event at the time of the Istanbul meeting of the mid-term assessment of IPoA.

This EGM which is being organised by the *LDC IV Monitor* and *Commonwealth Secretariat* in Johannesburg on 25 June 2015 is the initial step towards the implementation of the work plan.

II. Design of the Expert Group Meeting

This EGM will enable the participants and the member of the partner institutions of the LDC IV Monitor initiative to evaluate the Monitor's earlier outcomes and to plan for Monitor's contribution to the mid-term review of IPoA, for instance, preparation for the first draft document.

Agenda

The agenda of the EGM will be the following.

- i. Consolidation – review and consolidation of Monitor's earlier outcomes and stocktaking/updating. Discussion on the Scope and Focus of Monitor's Contribution to the Mid-term Review of IPoA
- ii. *Recent trends in the LDCs* - an analysis of the performance of the LDCs since 2011 in terms of GDP, investment, trade, food security, remittance flow, ODA etc. This will draw on the LDC IV Monitor's earlier volume in this regard.
- iii. *SDGs, FfD and IPoA in post-2015 period* - An reinterpretation of the IPoA in the light of SDGs and FfD3 outcomes.
Other issues under this could be:
 - *Spoilers of development trends* especially in Africa. Lack of policies and strategies that build cohesive nations through inclusive policies have given rise to unexpected volatile situations in Central Africa (e.g. Chad and Mali) and Eastern Africa (e.g. South Sudan) and South Africa (Xenophobia affecting migrants from LDCs).
 - *Innovation and Technology, Good Governance, Urbanisation, and youth development*
 - *New risks* – Ebola epidemic in countries in conflict etc.
- iv. *Data Revolution and Implications for the LDCs* - problems concerning poor availability and accessibility of timely and quality data in the LDCs are well recognised. The SDG zero draft makes specific mention about this. The possibility of providing some guidance regarding possible financing of data needs in this group of countries will be explored?
- v. Discussion of Work Plan, Timeline, and Resources

Participants

Participants will be mostly from the partner institutions of the LDC IV Monitor. Tentative list of participants is as follows:

	Participant	Institutional Affiliation	Confirmed
1.	Vinaye Ancharaz	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)	Confirmed
2.	Debapriya Bhattacharya	Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)	Confirmed
3.	Jodie Keane	Commonwealth Secretariat	Confirmed
4.	Hoseana Bohela Lunogelo	Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)	Confirmed

	Participant	Institutional Affiliation	Confirmed
5.	Mustafizur Rahman	Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)	Confirmed
6.	Mohammad Razzaque	Commonwealth Secretariat	Confirmed
7.	Rorden Wilkinson	Professor of Global Political Economy Chair of the Department of International Relations School of Global Studies University of Sussex	Confirmed
8.	Dan Gay	Inter-regional Adviser on LDCs, UN	TBC, but expected

To join by Video Conference

	Participant	Institutional Affiliation	Confirmed
9.	Mehmet Arda	Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)	TBC
10.	Federico Bonaglia	OECD Development Centre (DEV)	TBC
11.	Patrick Guillaumont	Fondation pour les Etudes et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDI)	TBC

Experts from OHRRLLS, UNCTAD, and CDP may be also invited to attend.



LDC IV Monitor Phase 2



The Commonwealth

Expert Group Meeting on
Designing the Monitor's Contribution to the Mid-term Review of IPoA
Johannesburg, South Africa
Thursday, 25 June 2015

Schedule	Sessions
9:00 am- 9:30 am	Opening Session: Discussion on the Scope and Focus of Monitor's Contribution to the Mid-term Review of IPoA Chair: <i>Mohammad Razzaque</i> , ComSec Lead Discussant: <i>Debapriya Bhattacharya</i> , SV <i>Patrick Guillaumont</i> , FERDI (by VC)
9:30 am- 10.30 am	Session I: Discussion on the chapter on "Recent trends in the LDCs" Chair: <i>Vinaye Ancharaz</i> , ICTSD Lead Discussant: <i>Jodie Keane</i> , ComSec
10:30 am- 11.00 am	Tea/Coffee Break
11:00 am- 1:00 pm	Session II: Discussion on the chapter on "SDGs, FfDs, and IPoA: Seeking Congruence in Post-2015 Period" (in two parts) Chair: <i>Dan Gay</i> , UN Lead Discussants: 1. <i>Rorden Wilkinson</i> , University of Sussex 2. <i>Hoseana Bohela Lunogelo</i> , ESRF 3. <i>Federico Bonaglia</i> , OECD (by VC)
1:00 am- 2:00 pm	Lunch Break
2:00 am- 3:30 pm	Session III: Discussion on the chapter on Data Revolution and Implications for the LDCs Chair: <i>Mustafizur Rahman</i> , CPD Lead Discussant: <i>Mehmet Arda</i> , EDAM (by VC)
3:30 pm- 4:00 pm	Tea/Coffee Break
4:00 pm- 5:15 pm	Wrap up Session: Discussion on the Work Plan, Timeline, and Resources Chair: <i>Mohammad Razzaque</i> , ComSec Lead Discussant: <i>Debapriya Bhattacharya</i> , SV