

Second UN LDC Future Forum
Innovation for structural transformation in LDCs
4-6 March 2024, Helsinki, Finland
Draft Programme

Monday, 4 March

Venue: Kulttuurikasarmi, Narinkka 2

17:00 – 18:00

Registration and doors open

18:00 – 20:00

Welcome cocktail reception

- Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS
- Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Permanent State Secretary, Finland

Tuesday, 5 March

Venue: Pikku (Little) Finlandia, Karamziniranta 4

09:30 – 10:00

Registration and coffee

10:00 – 10:30

Opening session

Moderator: Ms. Titta Maja-Luoto, Director General, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Remarks by:

- H.E. Ms. Elina Valtonen, Foreign Minister of Finland
- Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS
- H.E. Mr. N.P. Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Chair of LDC group

10:30 – 11:15

Ministerial dialogue: Strategies to accelerate innovation and structural transformation

Moderator: Mr. Pasi Hellman, Under-Secretary of State (Development Policy), Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Panelists:

- H.E. Mr. N.P. Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal
- Hon. Mr. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science, Zambia
- H.E. Ms. Rose Kayi Mivedor-Sambiani, Ministre du Commerce, de l'Artisanat et de la Consommation Locale, Togo

Comment from the floor: Mr. Tapio Vahtola, Head of UN Global Pulse Europe, Secretary-General's Innovation Lab (tbc)

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

Innovation for structural transformation: Setting the scene

Moderator: Dr. Ritva Reinikka, Professor of Practice at the Helsinki Graduate School of Economics, Aalto University School of Business

Keynote speakers:

- Prof. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London
- Dr. Abeba Birhane, Senior Advisor in AI Accountability, Mozilla Foundation
- Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner, European Union (tbc)

Q&A

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:30

Special session: The role of the private sector in the transformation of LDC economies with a focus on agrifood systems

Co-moderators:

- Ms. Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director, OECD Development Centre
- H. E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal

Presenters:

- Mr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO
- Dr. Amany Asfour, President, Africa Business Council (AfBC)

Respondent:

- H.E. Mr. Francisco Jose DaCruz, Permanent Representative of Angola

14:30 – 16:15

Thematic session 1: Building innovation capacity through investments in education and skills development

Co-moderators:

- Ms. Jasmina Byrne, Chief of Foresight and Policy, UNICEF Innocenti –Global Office of Research and Foresight
- H.E. Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, Permanent Representative of the Gambia

(continues)

14:30 – 16:15

Thematic session 1: Building innovation capacity through investments in education and skills development

Presenters:

- Mr. Aly Mbaye, Rector of the Dakar University, Senegal
Digital technology to meet the challenges of higher education in French-speaking Africa
- Ms. Federica Irene Falomi, Officer-in-Charge, UN Technology Bank for LDCs
State of STI, Technology Needs Assessments, and perspectives from the implementation of the Technology Makers Lab
- Mr. Lukovic Seke, Programme Officer, Data Management, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
Increasing access to quality education, healthcare, and opportunities for marginalized groups, including youth, women, and others.
- Ms. Andaleeb Alam, Global Insight team, UNICEF
Green school to work transition
- Dr. Ricardo Santos, UNU-WIDER
Mozambique: STEM education to enhance productivity and structural transformation

Respondents:

- Ms. Christina Zakeyo Chatima, Secretary for Trade and Industry, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Malawi
- Ambassador Esen Altuğ, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye

Interactive discussion

16:15 – 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 – 18:15

Thematic session 2: Innovative entrepreneurship to drive structural transformation and job creation

Co-moderators:

- Dr. Kunal Sen, Director, UNU-WIDER
- H.E. Mr. Anouarb Vongnorkeo, Permanent Representative of Lao PDR

Presenters:

- Ms. Nigham Shahid, Senior Insights Manager, Central Insights Manager, Central Insights Unit (CIU), GSMA Mobile for Development
E-Commerce and opportunities for MSMEs
- Mr. Jean Michel Severino, Former Director General of Agence française de développement (AFD), Senior Fellow at FERDI
Impact investment on development of SMEs with high potential for quality employment
- Dr. Donald Mmari, Director, REPOA, Tanzania
Digitalisation and E-commerce as enablers for a resilient and inclusive integration of LDCs in regional and global value chains
- Ms. Nancy Samamad, Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM), Mozambique
Agricultural incubators to drive entrepreneurship among small farmers
- Dr. Rubana Huq, Chairperson, Mohammadi Group, Bangladesh
Equal opportunities for women and girls

Respondents:

- Mr. Kelvin Doe, Youth Innovator, Kelvin Doe Foundation, Sierra Leone
- Mr. Douglas Baguma, CEO and Co-Founder, Innovex

Interactive discussion

18:30 – 20:00

Mayor's Reception, City of Helsinki

Venue: Helsinki City Hall, Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13, Sofiankatu 1

City of Helsinki's innovations for the future

Light buffet dinner

Wednesday, 6 March

Venue: Pikku (Little) Finlandia, Karamziniranta 4

09:30 – 11:20

Thematic session 3: Diversifying LDC economies into sectors with potential

Co-moderators:

- (tbc)
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Siad Doualeh, Permanent Representative of Djibouti

Presenters:

- Ms. Vasiliki Mavroeidi, Economist, Economic Transformation and Development Division, OECD Development Centre on Production Transformation Policy Reviews (PTPRs)
- Prof. Selim Raihan, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Challenges of export diversification and structural transformation in Bangladesh
- Dr. Aimable Nsabimana, UNU-WIDER, Rwanda
The role of innovations in agro-processing
- Dr. Paras Kharel, SAWTEE, Kathmandu
Nepal's experience with premature deindustrialization and its search for an industrial policy
- Dr. Selamwit Robi, University of Sheffield
Structural Transformation in Ethiopia and the rest of the region

Respondents:

- H.E. Rose Kayi Mivedor-Sambiani, Ministre du Commerce, de l'Artisanat et de la Consommation locale, Togo
- H.E. Mr. Kan Channmeta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, Cambodia

Interactive discussion

11:20 – 11:40

Coffee break

11:40 – 13:00

Fireside chat: Managing the risks and identifying the benefits of technology, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), in fostering productivity in LDCs

Moderator: Prof. Jean-Louis Arcand, President of Global Development Network (GDN)

Panelists:

- Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector, UNU
- Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal, President, TUBITAK
- Prof. Petri Myllymäki, Member of the UN High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence (tbc)
- Representative (tbc), Nokia

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

**Lunchtime presentation:
The Story of a Nordic Country. From Poverty to Innovative Economy**

H.E. Ms. Elina Kalkku, Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN followed by Eeva Furman, Secretary-General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development.

14:30 – 16:30

Thematic session 4: International support measures (ISMs) for LDCs

Co-moderators:

- Prof. Patrick Guillaumont, President, FERDI
- H.E. Ms. Agnes Chimbiri Molande, Permanent Representative of Malawi

Presenters:

- H. E. Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation of Rwanda
Lessons learned for LLDC3 on the importance to support innovation for structural transformation (tbc)
- Mr. Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre
The role of the LDC5 Monitor in rethinking ISM and partnerships with LDCs in the context of a policy crisis
- Dr. Neil Balchin, Economic Adviser, International Trade Policy Section, Commonwealth Secretariat
Enhancing sustainable production and trade

(continues)

14:30 – 16:30

Thematic session 4: International support measures (ISMs) for LDCs

- Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Chairman, RAPID, Bangladesh
Advancing sustainable graduation
- Mr. Phuntsho Norbu, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the Royal Government of Bhutan
Experience of a newly graduated country
- Prof. Youssoufou Hamadou Daouda, Rector of the University of Tahoua, Niger
ISMs for vulnerable countries

Respondents:

- H.E. Mr. Tapugao Falefou, Permanent Representative of Tuvalu

Interactive discussion

16:30 – 17:00

Closing

Remarks by:

- H.E. Mr. Ville Tavio, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland
- Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, OHRLS
- Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science, Zambia

19:00

Conference Dinner

Venue: Restaurant Pörssi , Fabianinkatu 14

Remarks by:

- Ms. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland (2000-2012)
- Ms. Titta Maja-Luoto, Director General, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, OHRLS