

Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (2011–2020) Monitoring Deliverables, Tracking Progress

Analytical Perspectives

The volume comprises the following scholarly papers, each of which addresses a particular aspect of the outcome document adopted at the UN LDC IV held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2011.

- **The Challenges of Structural Transformation and Progress towards the MDGs in LDCs**
Debapriya Bhattacharya and Towfiqul Islam Khan (CPD)
- **The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs: A Monitoring and Benchmarking Exercise**
Yarendra Basnett, Jodie Keane and Dirk Willem te Velde (ODI)
- **Assessing the Prospects of Accelerated Graduation of the LDCs**
Alassane Drabo and Patrick Guillaumont (FERDI)
- **Infrastructure for Development in LDCs**
Sebastian Nieto-Parra and Noemie Videau (OECD Development Centre)
- **Agriculture and Rural Development Status in LDCs**
Hoseana Bohela Lunogelo and Solomon Baregu (ESRF)
- **Commodities and the Istanbul Programme of Action: The First Two Years**
Mehmet Arda (Galatasaray University)
- **Harnessing Trade for Structural Transformation in LDCs**
Vinay Ancharaz, Christophe Bellmann, Anne-Katrin Pfister and Paolo Ghisu (ICTSD)
- **Facing Climate Change in the LDCs: How to Fit the Istanbul Programme of Action**
Patrick Guillaumont and Catherine Simonet (FERDI)
- **ODA to and External Debt in LDCs: Recent Trends**
Fahmida Khatun and Mazbahul Ahamad (CPD)
- **Foreign Direct Investment for Development and Productive Capacity Building in LDCs**
K. G. Moazzem and Saifa Raz (CPD)
- **Leveraging Migration and Remittances towards Graduation of the LDCs**
Mustafizur Rahman and Md. Zafar Sadique (CPD)
- **Domestic Resource Mobilisation in the LDCs: Trends, Determinants and Challenges**
Debapriya Bhattacharya and Mashfique Ibne Akbar (CPD)

Reports are available at
www ldc4monitor.org

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Synthesis Report Analytical Perspectives

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SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT
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ICTSD
International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development


OECD dev
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Initiative

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UN LDC IV) adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), which set out a strategy for economic development in the least developed countries (LDCs) over the decade 2011–2020. **Successful implementation of the IPoA** requires identification of delivery tools for specific targets, provision of necessary financial and non-financial resources, and a strengthened monitoring mechanism including independent, analytical and policy-oriented bodies and stakeholders. Established in September 2011, *LDC IV Monitor* is an **independent partnership of eight interested organisations** that aims to add value to the official monitoring and review mechanism of the IPoA. These organisations have played active roles in generating policy recommendations towards a framework for a new international partnership in favour of the LDCs. *LDC IV Monitor's* report, which was **produced outside of the official intergovernmental process**, provides credible, evidence-based and policy-oriented assessments of delivery on the promises contained in the IPoA.

Why Independent Review

LDC IV Monitor was intended to operate as a 'watchdog' on behalf of the global development community

Discussions prior to UN LDC IV highlighted the poor implementation record of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 (BPoA), which was largely attributed to weak accountability. Monitoring of the BPoA implementation and the two preceding programmes was limited to official and administrative levels, often involving rather pro forma exercises. A practical and innovative approach to strengthen the oversight process of the IPoA implementation was evidently needed.

LDC IV Monitor was intended to operate as a 'watchdog' on behalf of the global development community. This was conceived not as a substitute for the intergovernmental process, but rather as a complement to this process that would improve the efficacy of the implementation. The approach was also planned to be in line with the call of the IPoA for partnership with civil society, academia and foundations in awareness raising and advocacy work that favours LDCs.

The Partners

- Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka
- Centre de Recherches Économiques Appliquées (CREA), Dakar
- Commonwealth Secretariat, London
- Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Dar es Salaam
- Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDI), Clermont-Ferrand
- Galatasaray University, Istanbul
- International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva
- OECD Development Centre, Paris

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Synthesis Report

The *Synthesis Report* derives a set of broad messages and key recommendations from a volume of scholarly papers on the topic of IPoA implementation titled *Analytical Perspectives*. The report drew a number of insightful conclusions:

- Post-crisis economic recovery was slow and uneven
- MDG attainment is uneven
- Prospects of graduation from the LDC category remain uncertain
- Progress in structural transformation and building productive capacities has been unsatisfactory
- Progress in implementing agricultural development strategies has been limited
- Dependence on commodities exports persists
- Structural issues in LDCs' trade remain
- Climate vulnerability is a complex medium- to long-term concern
- Official development assistance has been inadequate and its distribution is becoming increasingly skewed
- Foreign direct investment for development has remained lacking
- Challenges related to promoting overseas employment and remittance inflows and ensuring migration rights are pervasive
- Growth in domestic resource mobilisation is helping to bridge resource gaps only in some LDCs
- A 'data revolution' in LDCs is necessary to make relevant data available and accessible for better monitoring of the IPoA implementation