

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF ACTION FOR LDCs FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010: UNCTAD'S CONTRIBUTION
TO THE MID- TERM REVIEW**

PROGRESS MADE, RESULTS ACHIEVED AND LESSONS LEARNED



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Abstract

The United Nations General Assembly will hold a comprehensive Mid-term Review (MTR) of progress in implementation of the Programme of Action during its 61st session in September 2006. As part of its contribution to the MTR, UNCTAD designed and implemented a project aimed at providing a qualitative assessment of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action in selected countries. The work undertaken by UNCTAD, including under this project, reveals considerable variations in the economic performance of LDCs and, progress towards attaining the goals and targets of the PoA. In addition to providing succinct analysis of progress in the implementation of the PoA, the present study draws policy lessons and conclusions from the experiences of the countries covered by the project. It also puts forward recommendations for the strengthened implementation of actions and commitments of the PoA during the remaining five years. Moreover, the study provides a methodological framework for monitoring and evaluation implementation of the PoA that is sufficiently flexible for application in a range of different contexts. It argues that assessing the socio-economic impact of internationally adopted programmes of action such as the PoA for LDCs is complex and daunting, partly due to data limitations and, to complex factors influencing growth and development trajectories in LDCs. What proportion of the change in the socio-economic performance indicator can be attributed to policy intervention and what proportion is due to exogenous influences?

Key words: Mid-term Review, Assessment, Implementation, Progress, Programme of Action (PoA), Goals, Targets, LDCs, UNCTAD

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The task force, consisting of Mussie Delelegn, Pierre Encontre, Gunter Fischer and Jean-Claude Mporamazina implemented the project under the overall supervision of Habib Ouane, Director, Special Programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Professor Colin Kirkpatrick of Manchester University provided a methodological framework for monitoring and evaluating progress in implementing the actions and commitments of the PoA. Nazneen Ahmed (Bangladesh), Célestine Bere Lompo (Burkina Faso), Paulo Monteiro (Cap Verde), Teigist Lemma (Ethiopia), Pushkar Bajracharya (Nepal) and Joseph Enyimu (Uganda) prepared case studies on their respective countries which provided the basis for chapter III of the report.

As part of the project, an UNCTAD ad hoc Expert Meeting was convened in Geneva on 29-30 May 2006. The Expert Meeting,--the outcome of which forms Annex I of this report, was jointly chaired by H.E. Ambassador Doris Bertrand (Austria) and Mr. Fredrik Arthur (Norway). Elisabeth Marschang (Austria) was involved in the various stages of the project and contributed to its smooth implementation.

Secretarial and administrative support to the project and, in the final preparation of the report, was provided by Corazon Alvarez, Regina Ogunyinka, Mounia Atiki, Sylvie Guy, Mary McGee, Lacroix Paulette, Veronica Rivera- Cruz and Sivanla Sikounnavong.

Abbreviations

ADP	Annual Development Programme
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
ART	Anti-Retroviral Treatment
BOT	Built Operate and Transfer
BOOT	Built Operate Own and Transfer
BPOA	Brussels Programme of Action
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCAF	Common Country Assessment Framework
CDF	Comprehensive Development Programme
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
CIAA	Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority
CMA	Capital Markets Authority
COMESA	Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCI	Direct Calorie Intake
EAC	East African Cooperation
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFA	Education for all
ERC	Energy Regulatory Commission
ERP	Economic Recovery Programme
EU	European Union
EVI	Economic Vulnerability Index
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FEI	Food Energy Intake
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economic Division
GNP	Gross National Product

GNI	Gross National Income
HAI	Human Asset Index
HIPC initiative	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune deficiency Syndrome
HLM	High-level meeting
HMG	Government
HSDP	Health Sector Development Programme
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IF/IFTTAP	Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance Programme
IDU	Injection Drug Users
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JITAP	Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LGs	Local Governments
LLDCs	Land Locked Developing Countries
LSG	Local Self-Governance Act
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFA	Multifibre Arrangement
MFI	Micro Finance Institutions
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTMF	Medium Term Macroeconomic Framework
MTR	Mid-term Review

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