#### ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

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### New emphases that differentiate it from earlier program

- Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) of 2001 emphasizes
  - > MDGs
  - > Halve the proportion of *people* in poverty
  - ➢ Influenced by Doha programme for the World Trade Organization – demand side
  - Strong, almost exclusive market orientation although weaknesses recognized
  - Export orientation, participation in globalization as an aim
  - Financing of growth from the outside ODA, FDI from developed countries

### **Istanbul Programme of Action recognizes**

- Structural transformation and productive capacity, agriculture, commodities, industrialization, trade supply side and policy
- > Halve the number of Least Developed Countries
- Reduce vulnerability multiple crises and doubts about globalization
- > Domestic resources, demand
- South South relations increasing both trade and finance
- Implementation and follow up goals AND actions (LDC IV Monitor)

# IPOA IS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL FOR SOUTH ASIA, AND SOUTH ASIAN LDCs, GIVEN THE NEW EMPHASIS ON SUPPLY SIDE

Mainland Asian LDCs – Afghanistan (Land Locked), Bangladesh, Bhutan (LL), Cambodia, Lao PDR (LL), Myanmar, Nepal (LL), Yemen (in total 31 African, 8 Asian, 8 Island LDCs and Haiti)

## Compared to African LDCs, potential for structural transformation is higher:

- Excluding Afghanistan, they have the highest Human Development Index ratings (except for Equatorial Guinea and some island LDCs)
- In general, they have low economic vulnerability indices – Bangladesh is the least economically vulnerable of all LDCs
- Have higher proportion of manufacturing in their GDP
   Asian average 14.4%, African average 6.6%
- Physical connectivity infrastructure is better (railroads) but Almaty priorities crucial (policy improvements – reduce bureaucracy and costs; improve infrastructure; measures to improve trade; technical, financial assistance; monitoring and followup)
- > On social and health issues (MDGs) rankings mixed

## India (and China) as two poles generating high potential

- ► India as export destination for Bhutan (88.5%), Nepal (57.5%), Afghanistan (21%) – for these China insignificant, and Yemen (15.8)
- ► India as source of imports for Bhutan (60.8%) China insignificant, Nepal (57%), Bangladesh (13.0%)
- China as export destination for Lao (34.4%) India insignificant, Yemen (27.1%)
- China as source of imports for Myanmar (31.7%), Lao (16.8%), Cambodia (14.7%) India insignificant, Bangladesh (22.8%), Yemen (13.2%), Nepal (10.5%)

- ➤ Trade potential seems high, especially when looked at from a value chain angle (textiles, agroindustry and other light industry)
- ➤ Focusing on South Asia, agreements such as a better functioning SAFTA have potential, also bilateral agreements
- ➤ Does the LDCs status of some countries in the Region augur well for increased regional cooperation and inclusive development in the Region? Probably YES
- ➤ In trade, LDC status seems to have the potential to act

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