



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Administrations & Regulators of Least Developed Countries
Permanent Mission of LDC to the United Nations
LDC Focal Points

Subject: Digital Inclusion for the Least Developed Countries: Innovation, Growth, and Sustainability
(Geneva, Switzerland, 8-9 March 2011)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I take this opportunity to invite you to our pre-conference event on the Fourth United Nations Conference for the Least Developed Countries (LDC IV). The event will be held in Geneva from 8 to 9 March 2011.

The objective of this event is to share with you our work on the creation of the knowledge economy through the use of information and communication technologies under the aegis of the Brussels Programme of Action which was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference for the LDCs in 2001. As ICT connectivity has improved in unprecedented way in LDCs over the past decade, the event will shade light on the driving forces behind this progress. These include the introduction of new technologies (such as broadband, cloud computing, and the mobile phenomenon), and a new regulatory environment. Thanks to this success, ICTs are playing a catalytic role in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in other sectors.

We envisage that the discussions will serve as an input to the work of the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference for the LDCs to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in May, 2011. Within the overall thematic area of bridging the digital divide through the use of ICT, the pre-conference event is dedicated to exploring strategies for enhance universal access in LDCs, taking into account best practices, opportunities and threats from various parts of the world. In this regard, the event will be interactive and representative of a broad range of stakeholders and viewpoints.

Registration

Registration is carried out in two steps:

1. prior to the event (pre-registration) which is exclusively done online through Focal Points designated by each administration and entity entitled to participate in the meeting
2. during the event (onsite registration) which requires a letter of accreditation from the Designated Focal Point for those delegates who have not pre-registered

The role of a Focal Point is to handle registration formalities for his/her respective administration/entity.

The list of Focal Points can be accessed using a **TIES** log-in at this [address](#).

Designated Focal Points can find the registration form [here](#).

If your administration or organization does not have a focal point, or a change of Designated Focal Point is required, please contact: bdtmeetingsregistration@itu.int.

You will find registration details and all other logistical information such as accommodation and visa arrangements on the event website at www.itu.int/itu-D/ldc/events.html

I look forward to your participation at this meeting which will attract senior government officials, United Nations Agencies, and the private sector.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annexes: - Provisional Programme
 - Concept Note



ITU's pre-conference Event for the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC IV)
 ITU Headquarters (Room C), Geneva, Switzerland, 8 – 9 March 2011
Digital Inclusion For LDCs: Innovation · Growth · Sustainability

Provisional Agenda

Day 1, Tuesday, 8 March 2011	
10:00 - 11:00	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, ITU Secretary-General • Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States • H.E. Ambassador Oğuz Demiralp, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the U.N., Geneva • Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
	Coffee Break
11:15 - 13:00	<p>Interactive High level Debate: Making the MDGs come true for LDCs</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Ambassador Khadija R. Masri, Permanent Representative of the African Union to the U.N., Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States • Mr. Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU • Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD • Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General WIPO • Mrs. Cécile Molinier, Director, UNDP Office, Geneva
	Lunch
14:30 - 16:30	<p>Session I: Information and Communication Technologies in LDCs</p> <p>Presentation: Unlocking Digital Dividends for the LDCs through ICTs - Mr. Cosmas L. Zavazava, Head Least Developed countries, Small Island Developing States and Emergency Telecommunication Division</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ambassador, Dudley McKinley Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia to the U.N. • Mr. Nazul Islam Khan, Secretary, Government of Bangladesh, National Project Coordinator, Prime Minister's office, Bangladesh • Mr. Patrick Mwesigwa, Director General, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) • Mrs. Gertrude Akapelwa-Ehueni, Chairperson, Zambia Information Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) • Mr. Dasho Kinley Dorji, Secretary Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan
Day 2, Wednesday, 9 March 2011	

09:30 - 11:00	Session II: Creating an Information Society for All: Attaining the World Summit on the Information Society Goals Chair: Mr Daniel Stauffacher, Chairman, ICT for Peace Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief, ICT Analysis Section Science, Technology and ICT Branch Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD• Mr. Makane Faye, Coordinator, E-Applications Section UN Economic Commission for Africa• Mr. Raul Zambrano, Senior Policy Advisor, ICTD & e-Governance UNDP/BDP/DGG• Mr. Cedric Wachholz, Programme Specialist, Division for Education Strategies and Capacity-Building, UNESCO Panel Discussions
	Coffee Break
11:15 - 12:30	Session III: Priorities for LDCs under LDC IV with respect to making ICTs more accessible and the driving engine to growth, sustainability through innovation Chair: Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Government of Nepal This session will discuss the final report to be adopted by the meeting. The report will highlight ICT priorities for the LDC IV which will be used as input to the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee in April 2011.
12:30 - 13:00	Adoption of Final Report Closing statement: H.E. Mrs. Suvi Lindén, Ministry of Communication, Finland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finland will chair the Second meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

- This provisional agenda will be updated in due course and will be available at:

www.itu.int/itu-D/ldc/events.html

Concept Note

Fourth UN Conference on LDCs

Pre-Conference Event – Digital Inclusion For Least Development Countries: *Innovation •Growth •Sustainability*

8 – 9 March 2011

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Introduction

It is less than 4 months before the 4th UN Conference on LDCs is held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9 to 13th May 2011. As agreed by the UN system organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, ITU is convening a Pre-Conference Event within its mandate to address the developmental role played by information and communication technologies (ICT) in least developed countries while implementing the Brussels Programme of Action. The event will also form part of our preparation process for LDC IV. The results of this consultative process will form part of our input into the LDC IV proceedings.

Least developed countries tend to be characterized by extreme poverty and structural weaknesses. Other challenges facing LDCs include limited access to education, health and other social services, depletion of natural resources, poor infrastructure and access to information and communication technologies. However, in terms of information and communication technologies, the number of telephone lines per hundred inhabitants and Internet penetration dramatically increased/improved over the past decade. This has mainly been due to improved political stability, low-cost wireless technologies, and an enabling environment. Recently, there have been some successes in LDCs as some of these countries have graduated from this category to become developing countries. ICTs have played a key role in the general development of most of the least developed countries since the impact of these technologies drive the rest of the sectors and help address some of the challenges that confront LDCs. For instance, ICTs go a long way in addressing extreme poverty, structural weaknesses of economies in LDCs, climate change impacts, and the general vulnerabilities of these countries that often expose them to immense infrastructure damage and loss of human lives due to natural disasters.

New technologies such as the Next Generation Networks and ITU flagship initiatives such as the Build on Broadband, are posed to make a huge difference in years to come for LDCs. The Pre-Conference meeting will share these emerging trends, best practices and lessons learnt, and attempt to identify obstacles and constraints that may frustrate socio-economic development in LDCs. Views will be shared by the LDCs themselves and development partners.

Objective and Approach

The Pre-Conference event seeks to explore strategies for enhancing accessibility in LDCs, taking into account best practices, opportunities and threats from various parts of the world. In this regard, the event will be interactive and representative of a broad range of stakeholders and viewpoints. The agenda will include presentations and discussions of global, regional and national dimensions of issues. All presentations will be followed by contributions from participants.

Expected Output

A shared understanding of the critical issues and identification of priorities for enhancing improved access to information and communication technologies to be carried over to the LDC IV Conference. It is hoped that these issues will be contained in the output document.

Participation

Participants in the Pre-Conference event will be Representatives of ITU Member States, UN Agencies, Multilateral/Bilateral Organizations with LDC focus and interest, Civil Society, NGOs, Experts and Policy Makers.

Ministers will be invited to participate or be represented.

Languages

The Conference will be conducted in English only.

Venue

The Pre-Conference Event will be held on 8 and 9th March 2011, in Geneva at ITU in Room C. The event will be well displayed on ITU Screens for Meetings. More details could also be obtained at:

www.itu.int/itu-D/lhc/events.html