



LDC5
5TH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



Building Capacity in Investment Promotion to Advance the SDGs in LDCs

Tuesday, 7 March 2023, 12:15 – 13:45 hours (Doha time)

Auditorium 3

The progress made on the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) has been threatened - and in some areas reversed - by the multiple and interlinked crises that have marked the beginning of the “decade of action” (2020-2030) to push the SDG agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic, the accelerating and ongoing effects of climate change, and the war in Ukraine, all had a negative impact on the achievement of the SDGs. Countries around the world are facing a triple food, fuel and finance crisis and, as a consequence, are struggling to deal with short term pressures, let alone their long-term SDG aspirations. These factors contribute to a highly uncertain global investment landscape and persistent SDG investment needs, particularly in the poorest countries.

In 2021, developing countries received \$372 billion in SDG investment. Only 15% went to LDCs.

The Doha Programme of Action for LDCs commits to implementing the decision contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for the LDCs. Specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also target investment in LDCs and other vulnerable economies, particularly target 17.5: Investment promotion for LDCs.

As a response, several United Nations agencies and partners have come together to establish the first multi-agency programme to strengthen the capacity of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) from LDCs. The programme entitled, “*Capacity Development Programme for Investment Promotion Agencies of Least Developed Countries*,” was initiated by UNCTAD, is funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and is implemented in partnership with, ILO, UNIDO, UNOHRLLS and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

“We at UNCTAD believe that we have a window of opportunity now to attract new, transformative investment towards LDCs. This programme aims to improve the institutional capacity of LDCs to attract investment in SDG-related sectors.”

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan

Programme

The event will highlight challenges faced by LDCs in the promotion of investment in SDG-related sectors and present strategies, programmes and tools that governments can use to target and facilitate sustainable investment. It will draw from a recent UNCTAD needs-assessment report of LDC IPAs. The results of the first phase of the new multi-agency *Capacity Development Programme for Investment Promotion Agencies of Least Developed Countries*, will be presented, including the creation of an “Executive IPA College.”

Issues to be addressed:

- What challenges are LDCs facing in the promotion of investment in SDG-related sectors?
- How can LDC IPAs better integrate the SDGs in their investment promotion strategies?
- In what way can IPAs facilitate partnerships to channel investment towards the SDGs?
- What digital tools can help LDC IPAs promote sustainable investment more effectively?

Speakers:

Opening

- H.E. Mr. José Ramos-Horta, President, Timor-Leste (tbc)
- Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, Director-General of ILO (by video message)
- Mr. Gerd Müller, Director-General of UNIDO (by video message)

Presentation of a short video on the Capacity Development Programme for Investment Promotion Agencies of Least Developed Countries

Panel

Moderator: Ms. Terryanne Chebet, Business Journalist, CNBC Africa

- H.E. Ms. Rose Kayi Mivedor, Minister of Investment Promotion, Togo
- Mr. James Zhan, Director, Investment and Enterprise Division, UNCTAD
- Mr. Deepak Bagla, President, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)
- Ms. Fatimetou Bellamech, Director of the Single Window for Enterprises, Investment Promotion Agency of Mauritania (APIM)
- Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)

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