

CSF Bulletin

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Call to Address Climate Change Issues Affecting the LDCs

Speakers at a special meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Istanbul have emphasised on the need for taking special plan of action to deal with the impact of climate change issues with special emphasis on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Addressing the meeting on "Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action by Asia-Pacific LDCs and the Way Forward" held at Lufti Kirdar Convention Centre on Wednesday, they observed that though some of the LDCs had achieved some indicators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), food insecurity and impact of climate change aggravated the situation among the LDCs.

The speakers said it was extremely ironic and huge injustice that people of the LDCs were bearing the brunt of the harmful impact of the climate change they had no part in creating.

Global warming is not only leading to massive dislocation of people, loss of livelihoods and destruction of homes and infrastructure due to disasters, extreme and unpredictable weather conditions and sea level rise, it has increased vulnerabilities and profound changes in the conditions of health, food production and agriculture.

"Access to water, habitat and other fundamental aspects of our livelihood have been threatened by rise in sea level," said Prime Minister of Samoa Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi.

Emphasising on the need for enhancing the Official Development Assistance (ODA), Mr Malielegaoe said that it could play a key role in socio-economic development in the LDCs, particularly in the water, sanitation, health and education sectors. He also



(From left) Mr. Ahmed Naseem, Mr. Upendra Yadav, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi and Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra

underlined the need for devising necessary plan of action to increase the productive capacity and effective policy to deal with natural calamities in the LDCs.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary-General of the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs, said that high food price and economic meltdown were putting pressure in the new development activities in the LDCs. "We need to increase international support to help LDCs to come out from food insecurity and energy crises," he observed.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Upendra Yadav, said there was the need to enhance productive capacity of the LDCs. He called upon the development partners to meet their commitment of providing their assistance between 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their Gross National Income (GNI).

Foreign Minister of Maldives, Ahmed Naseem, said climate change presented real threat for very survival of countries like Maldives. He said there was the threat of wiping away of whatever socio-economic gains his country had been madable to achieve over the past decades due to the

impact of climate change.

International Coordinator of the LDC Watch, Dr Arjun Karki, said the Brussels Programme of Action did not adequately address the problems of climate change and its consequences to the peoples of the LDCs. "Even now international negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have not succeeded in forging international agreements towards just and decisive solutions."

The Istanbul Programme of Action should echo the call for the mobilisation of finance to enable LDCs to be able to deal with the impact of climate change through comprehensive adaptation programmes and shift towards sustainable and equitable economic systems in the process of meeting sustainable development goals, Dr. Karki said.

Moderated by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the function was also addressed, among others, by Senior Advisor of the Asian Development Bank Ms Carola Donner-Reichle.

Hunger A Major Concern for the LDCs

May 11, Istanbul- Civil society leaders converging in Istanbul to take part in the fourth UN LDC Conference have said hunger remains a major concern for the Least Developed Countries.

They cited a World Food Program report that says 12 out of 16 hunger hotspot countries are LDCs.

Director of the African Forum on Alternatives, Demba Moussa Dembele, said the Brussels Programme of Action, drawn up at the previous LDC conference in 2001, failed to recognise the sovereignty of LDC states and did not manage to create enough jobs for LDC citizens. The world's poorest countries have been unable to gain a foothold in international trade, mobilise sufficient resources for development, or feed their populations.

"No efforts were made to create subsidies for local farmers in the LDCs and they toil to feed themselves," he said.

Dembélé, who is also a member of the Civil Society Steering Committee of LDC-IV, alleged that developed countries had failed to meet their pledges of support

to LDCs, especially in terms of official development assistance.

He also charged international finance institutions with being primarily concerned with cost-effectiveness and ability to repay loans, he said.

International coordinator of LDC Watch-an international alliance of civil society from the LDC countries-said that there was a need to improve global governance by setting up a global economic council under the auspices of the United Nations and carry out massive overhaul of international institutions. Citizens must be closely involved in the follow up and monitoring of the Istanbul Plan of Action if it is to succeed," he added.

Developed countries, however, insisted that developing countries should take the primary ownership for their development. "The European Union underlines the interdependence of progress in the LDCs with human rights, gender equality, democracy and good governance as well as peace and security," said Barroso adding, "The private sector also has a crucial role to play in reducing the

President of Turkey Meets LDC Journalists

A group of journalists attending LDC IV in Istanbul were treated to a breakfast briefing by President of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, on Wednesday.

While observing that most journalists in the briefing were from Africa, President Gul used the opportunity to discuss some of the intervention areas of Turkey in Africa. Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) has both Regional Offices and Country intervention initiatives in Africa.

President Gul said Turkey had a sense of "Global Responsibility" which is the driving force behind their foreign policy initiatives. Mostly cantered on humanitarian issues, Turkey has been investing over \$US 2 billion annually on these



projects. The NGO community has also been involved, so it is not limited to the Government track alone, said President Gul adding he had visited Africa five times over the past few years.

Reiterating the importance of LDC IV, President Gul highlighted on investment as the only way to generate employment. With the Conference halfway through, President Gul hoped that consensus could be reached on some of the pressing issue that have retarded the work of LDC Conferences before.

"Help Me to Help You," said President Gul.

An economist by training, Dr Gul was elected as 11th President of the Republic of Turkey in 2007.

Me Huguette Bokpe Gnacadja, consultante en Genre et en Droits de l'Homme

"Il faut que la femme soit considérée comme une stratégie de développement"

Ancienne membre pendant quatre ans du Comité des Nations unies pour l'élimination de toutes les discriminations à l'égard des femmes appelée communément le Cdef. Elle évoque ici la volonté des femmes de faire appliquer la déclaration des Nations unies et les conventions régionales.

Entretien réalisé par Hamidou SAGNA

Quand vous parlez des droits de la femme vous pensez à quelles femmes précisément ? Celles d'Afrique ? De l'Asie ? Du Moyen Orient ?

Me Huguette Bokpe Gnacadja : Pour avoir été membre de ce comité des Nations unies contre toutes les discriminations faites aux femmes et avoir examiné une centaine de rapports d'Etats parties à la Convention des Nations unies sur toutes les formes de discrimination faites aux femmes, je puis vous dire que c'est une question universelle. On peut reconnaître que les problèmes des femmes sont plus accentués selon, par exemple, qu'on est dans un pays où l'islam est une religion d'Etat, ou que les traditions sont érigées en lois ou alors que le pays est riche. En clair, les problèmes des femmes sont soit exacerbés en raison de ces facteurs ou moins accentués parce que ces critères n'entrent pas en jeu.

Lorsque parlez des femmes en Afrique, quels problèmes évoquez-vous ?

Parlant des femmes en Afrique, je distingue deux catégories. Il y a les femmes urbaines qui sont un peu mieux loties que leurs homologues de la campagne. Chez les femmes urbaines, les problèmes auxquels elles sont confrontées ont trait à l'autonomisation financière ou économique. Alors que les femmes rurales font face, en plus des discriminations liées au sexe, à la grande pauvreté, facteur aggravant de ces

discriminations. Mais les plus grandes discriminations notées sont celles relatives à la participation es prises de décision, celles liées à l'état juridique de la femme en matière civile, à son statut de personne, particulièrement dans les relations de mariage. Ces discriminations apparaissent lorsque la femme doit choisir la fonction qui lui convient ou doit simplement s'exposer à la vie publique. Il y a aussi des discriminations par rapport à l'accès à l'emploi et aux traitements salariaux.

Il y a une nouvelle donne en Afrique, celle des conflits et son lot de violences faites aux femmes. Aviez-vous intégré cette situation dans cette plate-forme ?

Les violences faites aux femmes sont au centre des discriminations qui leur sont faites. C'est un aspect de plus en plus en vue notamment dans les pays en conflit. Et nous considérons ces violences comme prioritaires dans notre action. On en a d'ailleurs l'illustration dans le conflit post électoral qui a affecté la Côte d'Ivoire. En République démocratique du Congo, des femmes ont été victimes de viol ou de violence, voire de crime.

Et qu'attendez-vous de cette IV è Conférence des PMA ?

Les questions relatives aux femmes sont plutôt perçues comme relevant du genre ou des droits humains. Nous avons alors invité nos Etats à avoir un regard différent par rapport à la mise en œuvre des conventions dûment signées qui promeuvent les femmes. Et au cours du forum de la société civile, un groupe thématique que je préside sur les femmes a été créé. Notre objectif dans ce comité est d'insérer dans la déclaration de la société civile à cette IV è conférence des PMA d'Istanbul un paragraphe qui insistera sur l'application de la convention des Nations unies faisant été de l'élimination de toutes les formes de discriminations faites aux femmes, les conventions régionales tel que le protocole de

Dünyaca ünlü entelektüeller İstanbul'da vicdanın sesini duyuruyor

En Az Gelişmiş Ülkelerle ilgili çeşitli konulara yoğunlaşmış önde gelen akademisyenler, uzmanlar, aktivistler ve kanaat önderlerini bir araya getiren ve 8 Mayıs'ta başlayan Entelektüeller Forumu, 11 Mayıs'a kadar devam edecek. Forumun ilk paneli 8 Mayıs'ta İstanbul Kongre Merkezi'nde gerçekleşti. Panel, Dışişleri Bakanı Ahmet Davutoğlu'nun konuşmasıyla başladı. Davutoğlu konuşmasında, sivil toplum kuruluşlarının EAGÜ'lerdeki kalkınma sürecinde kilit rol oynadığını belirterek hükümetleri sivil toplumu daha fazla desteklemeye davet etti. Forum kapsamındaki paneller şu anda Boğaziçi Üniversitesi'nde halka açık olarak devam ediyor.

Forum, www.ldcintellectuals.org sitesinden hem Türkçe hem İngilizce canlı olarak izlenebiliyor.

Forum, EAGÜ Konferansı'na Türk Dışişleri Bakanlığı tarafından, ilgili alanlardan önde gelen kişilerle yapılan görüşmeler sonucu eklenen bir yan etkinlik. Özgün bir konseptte sahip olan Entelektüeller Forumu, konferansın hükümetler arası ayağında tartışılacak resmi görüşler karşısında vicdanın sesi olmayı ve alınacak resmi kararları EAGÜ toplumlarının yararı ve gerçek ihtiyaçları doğrultusunda etkilemeyi amaçlıyor.

Forum, kalkınma, ticaret ve yatırım, yönetim, Afrika bölgeselciliği, tarım, ekonomik ve sosyal adalet, çevre ve iklim değişikliği, uygarlaşma, kültür, din ve gelenek, yoksulluk, kadın hakları, çocuk hakları, sivil toplumun rolü, sağlık, gençlik, göç ve mülteciler temaları altında bir dizi panelden oluşuyor. Akademisyenler, uzmanlar, öğrenciler ve medya temsilcilerinden oluşan geniş bir kitleyi hedefliyor.

Entelektüeller Forumu, aynı zamanda Amerikalı entelektüel ve aktivist Richard Falk başkanlığında bir Akademik Konsey'e de ev sahipliği yapıyor. Konsey, küresel adalete olan bağlılıklarıyla tanınan 18 akademisyen, uzman ve ahlaki otorite figüründen oluşuyor. Konsey, 4. BM EAGÜ konferansının hükümetler arası ayağı tarafından hazırlanacak olan



resmi bildirgeyi etkilemeyi amaçlayan bir bildirge yayınladı. Dünya ülkeleri arasında ve ülkelerin kendi içlerinde var olan eşitsizlikleri eleştirmeye ve ortaya koymaya çalışan bildirge, tüm insanlar ve özellikle tanımlamak adına insafılık, ekonomik ve sosyal haklar, yoksulluk, ekolojik adalet, gelir/servet eşitsizlikleri ve insafsızlıklara dair görüşleri yansıtıyor.

Akademik Konsey Başkanı Richard Falk'un Konsey'le ilgili sözleri şöyle:

“Akademik Konsey'in rolü onursal olmaktan öte, konferansın asli hedeflerini ilerletmeye adanmış ve yapılan politika önerilerinin önümüzdeki on yıl içinde uygulanmasını takip edecek otonom bir yapı şeklinde. Bu bağlamda, Akademik Konsey'in, EAGÜ'lerle ilgili gelişmeleri gözlemlemek için konferansı müteakip yıllık toplantılarla bir araya gelmesi öngörülüyor. Gelişmelerle ve bildirgedeki temenniler ve vizyonun yerine getirilmesine dair çıkabilecek engellerle ilgili yıllık raporlar yayınlayacak. Konsey üyeleri, aynı zamanda, Entelektüeller Forumu'na başkan, konuşmacı veya tartışmacı olarak katılıp, konferansın ana temalarıyla ilgili konuları gündeme taşıyarak, hükümet temsilcileri ve genel kamuoyu için faydalı olabilecek perspektif ve yaklaşımlara katkı sağlayacak.

Konseyin, EAGÜ'lerde yaşayan halkların gerçek kaygı, değer ve çıkarlarına ışık tutma amacıyla ana akım siyasi ve ekonomik söylemlere alternatif görüşleri dile getirerek, konferansın vicdanını oluşturmasını temenni ediyoruz.”