



Fighting for Justice, Peace and Human Rights of the Least Developed Countries



LDCs and LDC Watch

LDCs

Around 780 million people of the mother-earth are living in the poorest countries of the world. These countries are officially characterised as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). They are continuously struggling against hunger, poverty and disparity. Though they represent 11 % of the world population living in 49 LDCs', they have the stake of less than 5% of the global resources.

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By 2015, the year by which the international community is expecting to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this population size is projected to reach 942 million. Of 35 countries that fall in the lowest category of the Human Development Index (HDI), measured in terms of life expectancy, literacy, standard of living and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, 32 are LDCs.

Adoption of the neoliberal agenda, whether be it partial or full, has virtually widened the resource endowment gaps between the 'haves' and 'haves not' in the nation states. Majority of the people of the LDCs are still severely trapped in poverty and hunger.

In 1971, the United Nations (UN) identified 24 countries as LDCs, recognising them as the most vulnerable countries of the world and therefore, calling upon LDC-targeted special measures to be channelled into the global development strategies. Yet, after three decades of special development attention with three UN LDC conferences and three specific Programmes of Action for the LDCs; the number of LDCs has

increased to 49, today. This clearly proves the failure of the current development paradigms to effectively address the development challenges and constraints in these marginalised and vulnerable countries. The ever-increasing wave of neoliberal globalisation has further threatened the LDC economies by increasing debt burden, economic shocks, hunger, human rights violations including gender injustice, war, conflict, weak governance and inherent environmental vulnerabilities. Now LDC are hit hardest by food, fuel, climate and political crises.

The vulnerability of the LDCs was re-exposed severally during the last one and half year when climate, food and fuel crises became the 'three most dangers' for the world poor. Food riots have happened in 8 LDCs between 2007 and the first half of 2008. The eight countries are Burkina Faso, Guinea, Haiti, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia and Yemen. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has identified 34 'countries in crisis requiring external assistance' to absorb food shock. Among the 34 countries, 19 are LDCs.

Criteria for LDCs

In its latest triennial review of the list of LDCs in 2006, the Committee for Development Policy used the following three criteria for the identification of the LDCs:

- (i) A low-income criterion, based on a three-year average estimate of the gross national income (GNI) per capita (under US\$ 745 for inclusion, above US\$ 900 for graduation);
- (ii) A human capital status criterion, involving a composite Human Assets Index (HAI) based on indicators of: (a) nutrition: percentage of population undernourished; (b) health: mortality rate for children aged five years or under; (c) education: the gross secondary school enrolment ratio; and (d) adult literacy rate; and
- (iii) An economic vulnerability criterion, involving a composite Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) based on indicators of: (a) population size; (b) remoteness; (c) merchandise export concentration; (d) share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in gross domestic product; (e) homelessness owing to natural disasters; (f) instability of agricultural production; and (g) instability of exports of goods and services.

To be added to the list, a country must satisfy all three criteria. In addition, since the fundamental meaning of the LDC category, i.e. the recognition of structural handicaps, excludes large economies, the population must not exceed 75 million. To become eligible for graduation, a country must reach threshold levels for graduation for at least two of the aforementioned three criteria, or its GNI per capita must exceed at least twice the threshold level, and the likelihood that the level of GNI per capita is sustainable must be deemed high.

With regard to the 2006 triennial review of the list, the CDP recommended that Papua New Guinea be included in, and Samoa be graduated from, the list of least developed countries. Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were found eligible for graduation for the first time by the Committee. The General Assembly decided in its recent resolutions (59/209, 59/210 and 60/33) on the graduation of Cape Verde at the end of 2007 and Maldives in January 2011. At the end of 2007, Cape Verde became the only second country to graduate from the LDC group since its establishment in 1974. Botswana left the group in 1994.

(Source: www.un.org/ohrlls)

LDC Watch

LDC Watch was established in the aftermath of the third UN Conference on LDCs that took place in Brussels in 2001. LDC Watch is a global alliance of regional, national and international civil society organisations, their networks and movements mainly based in LDCs. LDC Watch, acts as a coordinating body for LDC civil society to advocate, lobby, campaign and network for the realisation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) including other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs). It goes beyond the BPoA in addressing poverty, hunger, social injustice and human rights in the LDCs. LDC Watch, therefore, has been raising its voice and articulating its popular perspectives in a multi-stakeholder framework, engaging with the UN, EU, LDC governments and their development partners, both, as development partner and as pressure group.

The third LDC conference produced a seven-point Programme of Action in the form of commitments to foster a people-centred policy framework in the LDCs; build good governance; build productive capacities to make globalisation work for LDCs; enhance the role of trade in development; reduce vulnerability; protect the environment and mobilise resources. The programme includes 30 time-bound and measurable international development goals. It also urged governments to include civil society in their plans.

Vision

LDC Watch envisions a world free of LDC and fully enjoying justice and human dignity.

Mission

LDC Watch is committed to facilitating and supporting people's initiatives and struggles against poverty, hunger, social, economic, political and ecological injustices

through advocacy, campaigns and strategic partnership with the social movements, UN agencies, LDC governments and other members of the international community, for pro-poor policies together with their implementation in the LDCs.

Objectives

- To raise awareness on the BPoA including all other IADGs, amongst the general public in the LDCs; CSOs; LDC governments; development partner governments and agencies and relevant multi-lateral institutions;
- To enhance the capacity of CSOs in the LDCs to effectively advocate, lobby, campaign and network for the implementation of the BPoA and MDGs including all other IADGs;
- To build network, both as development partner and pressure group, to seek the political will of all stakeholders for the implementation of the global

development commitments;

- To promote increased attention and delivery of the specific requirements of the LDCs in the global development processes, including the implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development;
- To realise and prepare for an effective civil society engagement in the process towards the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs after the Decade 2001-2010.

Programme Activities

- Advocacy, lobbying, campaigning and networking in the LDCs and development partner countries undertaking year-round activities with active engagement during strategic international events such as the World Social Forum (WSF); Common Wealth People's Forum (CPF); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC); G8 meeting and other international and regional processes;
- Critical engagement and meetings with representatives of the UN; LDC governments; development partner governments and agencies; relevant multi-lateral institutions; political leaders including parliamentarians; media and the civil society on LDC related issues and concerns;
- Organisation of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities for CSOs, multi-stakeholder consultations in the LDCs aiming to assess the implementation of the BpoA including other IADGs in the national development context and processes;
- Organisation of regional and global multi-stakeholder consultations aiming to develop an enhanced LDC focused

orientation of the global development processes, specifically the BPoA, by promoting a pro-poor development agenda in favour of the vulnerable people;

- Organisation of parliamentary hearings on the issues and concerns of the LDCs both in the national governments as well as in the development partner governments;
- Research on pro-poor agenda and key issues of debt; trade; food sovereignty; livelihoods; governance; aid and gender justice for the implementation of poverty reduction, human rights and sustainable peace and development in the LDCs;
- Production of alternative reports on the implementation of the BPoA providing a civil society perspective with an alternative view to the official processes that often overlook and undermine the constructive dynamics at the grassroots.

Structure

LDC Watch is managed by an International Steering Committee comprising members from the LDC CSOs in Nepal, Cambodia, Uganda, Senegal and its Northern partner in Belgium. The alliance is coordinated by an International Secretariat with support from the European Coordination Office and three regional focal points.

The International Secretariat is hosted by Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) in Kathmandu, Nepal while the European Coordination Office is hosted by EUROSTEP in Brussels, Belgium. It liaises with the European civil society, governments and relevant international bodies. The three regional focal points are established in Uganda, Senegal and Cambodia in order to coordinate activities in the respective regions of Africa, Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific. ●

LDCs and Foreign Aid

LDCs' reliance on foreign aid is subject to close scrutiny, as official development assistance (ODA) is not very encouraging in many of the countries. In 2006, the average share of ODA disbursements as a share of GDP was about 8% in LDCs; with island LDCs registering the highest aid dependence of 17%, followed by African LDCs (9.3%). The lowest aid dependence was shown by Asian LDCs (i.e., 4.8% only), and if Afghanistan is taken out, the Asian LDCs rate was only 2.7%. Thus, the developed world has grossly failed to realise their commitment of allocating 0.15% of their GNI for the development of the LDCs. Moreover, many of them are tagging different conditions against the spirit of the commitment. In this context, recommendation by the UN body is that LDCs should have greater control and flexibility over how foreign aid they receive is used so that it has the greatest positive impact.

Announcement for Upcoming Events

- **LDC Watch National Stakeholder Consultation in Solomon Island - November 2008**
- **LDC Watch Asia Regional Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal - 8-9 November 2008.**
- **Democracy, Peace and Development Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal - 10-12 November 2008.**
- **LDC Watch National Stakeholder Consultation in Afghanistan - December 2008.**
- **LDC Watch National Stakeholders Consultation in Haiti in December 2008.**

Country Based Activities

The main objective of these national workshops is to raise awareness of the BPOA and MDGs in LDCs and increase the political will of the government and civil society towards having BPOA reflected in adequate actions of governmental policies. The workshop also intends to build the capacity of civil society organisations in the LDCs such as farmer groups, trade unions, gender, food right activist etc. to lobby for the implementation of BPOA.

In 2008, LDC Watch has organised and plans to organise eight awareness raising and consultative workshops at national levels in Benin, Guinea, Solomon Island, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Uganda and Yemen. These are being pursued in collaboration with national level civil society organisations and networks.

In April 2008, LDC Watch organised and facilitated a workshop in Conakry, Guinea in collaboration with CECIDE, a non-governmental organisation based in Conakry. The workshop was participated by civil society organisations from Guinea, ministries, EC representatives and UN organisation representatives of Guinea. Approximately 50 participants attended the workshop.

LDC Watch had already completed the national level workshops in Bangladesh and has started the necessary preparations for the national level workshops scheduled to be held in Solomon Island and Afghanistan in November 2008. The capacity building and awareness raising workshops will be organised in collaboration with Equity and Justice Working Group (EJWG) Bangladesh and South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) in Bangladesh, Sanayee Development Organisation (SDO) in Afghanistan, Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in Yemen and Development Service Exchange in Solomon respectively.

International/Regional activities

Lobbying Activities

Lobbying, advocacy, campaign and networking in LDCs and developed countries are on-going activities. There has been a constant collaboration with regional and international like-minded alliances such as Jubilee South, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), Social Watch, Africa Trade Network and South Centre and La via Campasina to further the issues of LDCs in a more concerted way. Additionally, LDC Watch had organised meetings with policy makers of the EU institutions and with members of European Parliament to discuss how the EU can continue to live up to the commitments made in 2001 during the LDC- III conference in Brussels which was hosted by the European Commission itself. One of the outcomes of these meetings was to organise a parliamentary briefing in the European Parliament, in collaboration with Members of European Parliament.

Common Wealth People's Forum, Kampala, Uganda

LDC Watch organised an interactive programme at the People's Forum during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on 19 November 2008. The objective was to highlight the issues facing the LDCs, to raise awareness on Brussels Plan of Action and to build network and solidarity among the civil society in LDCs. The People's Forum was a platform to prepare Commonwealth civil society input into the CHOGM process. The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) theme for 2007 was 'Realising People's Potential'. Based on the theme, Realising People's Potential, the CPF set the citizens' agenda for the

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Along with being an active arena for interaction and networking, it produced the People's Communiqué to be presented for consideration on the Heads of Government Agenda and which provides opportunities for dialogue at the CHOGM.

ECOSOC NGO Forum

LDC watch released its statement at the ECOSOC NGO forum which was held in UN Headquarters, New York on 4 April 2008 with the theme "the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development and the new international aid architecture". LDC Watch drafted and circulated the statement during the forum where it



LDC Watch programme during the People's Forum in Kampala

firmly articulated for the enhanced participatory role of the LDC civil society towards ensuring the effectiveness of international aid vis-à-vis national development agenda and processes in their own countries. It further mentioned that the civil society, as representatives of people's organisations and initiatives, carry the legitimate voice of the poor and the marginalised and are better placed to articulate pro-poor interests in the international aid effectiveness agenda.

UNCTAD XII Conference Accra, Ghana

In collaboration with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), LDC Watch organised a Roundtable on the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) and LDCs development in the sideline of UNCTAD XII Conference in Accra, Ghana on 20 April 2008. Main theme

Key challenges to reaching MDGs in LDCs

"The donors have fallen short of their trade and development aid commitments towards reaching the MDGs in least developed countries. Regarding Official Development Assistance (ODA), the gap between promised aid and delivered aid is \$31.4 billion. In order to reach their goals by 2010, donors will need to give an additional \$18 billion per year. With global food and energy prices rising drastically in the last few years, aid flows have been declining; in 2006 aid decreased by 4.7 percent and in 2007 it decreased by 8.4 percent. Another key area where donors have fallen short is in trade. Despite the goal for 97 percent of exports from LDCs to be given duty-free access to the markets of developed countries, only 79 percent actually are given duty-free access."

Source: Gabrielle Wade, Delivering on the Global Partnership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals



(From left) Mr. Iktekhar Chowdhury, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh (LDC Chair), Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova, Representing the UN's High Representative responsible for LDCs, Mr. Demba Dembele, LDC Watch - Africa and Dr. Arjun Karki

of the roundtable was "Addressing the LDC issues of globalisation for sustainable development". The Roundtable participants consisting of high level representatives from Civil Societies, government representatives from the LDCs and Development Partner Countries and UN Agencies shared their concerns on how globalisation failed to raise living standards, reduce poverty and injustices for sustainable development in LDCs. LDC Watch also released statements which called on all respective Governments and development partners to consider and deliver on the demands in regards to food sovereignty, climate change, debt, trade justice and democratic accountability.

Cairo High Level Symposium

LDC Watch participated in the Cairo High Level symposium with the theme "Trends in Development Co-operation: South-South and triangular Cooperation and Aid Effectiveness" in 19-20 January 2008 jointly organised by Government of Egypt and UN ECOSOC. The symposium was organised to facilitate the engagement of stakeholders in the preparations for the 2008 biennial Development

Cooperation Forum going to be held in New York as a part of ECOSOC High Level Segment in July 2008. The meeting was attended by High-level UN officials such as Ms Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa and Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD. There were also senior government officials such as ministers, head of National Planning Commissions, and head of regional banks attending this meeting. Similarly, among CSOs, head of Reality of Aid, CEO of Action Aid and Secretary General of CIVICUS attended Cairo meeting.

Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII: Hearing with Civil Society and the Private Sector

The Chair of LDC Watch, Dr. Arjun Karki participated in a hearing with civil society and the private sector convened as part of the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XII, which took place on 28 January 2008 in Geneva. Dr. Karki raised the issues of poverty, aid and trade issues of the LDCs.

Dr. Arjun Karki, participated in the Advisory Group (AG) of International Forum on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness which was held in Gatineau (near Ottawa), Canada from February 3 to 6, 2008. Approximately 200 participants attended the Forum, including governments, donors and civil society representatives, who were actively involved in the regional consultation processes related to the AG's mandate leading up to the September 2008 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, which will review the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Dr. Karki raised the issues of poverty, governance, aid and trade in this forum and the impact of aid in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and he argued how aid can be more effective and efficient towards the poverty eradication in these countries.

What is Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA)?

In May 2001, the Third UN Conference on the LDCs held in Brussels declared the BPoA for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010. The BPoA aims to ensure that the LDCs achieve sustainable development during the decade 2001-2010. It contains 30 international development goals with indicators, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration. The goals are based in the seven mutual commitments of the LDCs and their development partners which are as follows:

- i) Fostering a people-centered policy framework;
- ii) Good governance at national and international levels;
- iii) Building human and institutional capacities;
- iv) Building productive capacities to make globalisation work for LDCs;
- v) Enhancing the role of trade in development;
- vi) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment and
- vii) Mobilising financial resources.



Dr. Arjun Karki (4th from left), Mr. Yasuo Fukuda (5th from left), Prime Minister of Japan and other CSO delegates prior to the G8 Summit 2008, Japan

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan

In the capacity of chair of LDC Watch Dr. Arjun Karki, was invited for and participated in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan as a part of the global civil society delegation to discuss about the civil society issues and concerns in the context of G8 summit that was held in Japan on 9 June 2008. Dr. Karki raised the issues facing Asian and African LDCs such as poverty, aid, trade, governance and human right issues with the prime minister and raised the importance of effective implementation of Brussels Programme of Action in the LDCs.

Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness

This meeting was organised in the context of the next Conference on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Accra (Ghana) in September 2008. LDC Watch steering committee member, Mr. Demba Dembele had represented LDC Watch in this meeting which was held in Paris from 29-30 June 2008. The main objective of the meeting was to assess the effectiveness of CSOs in influencing the outcome of that Conference. Several plenary meetings and workshops were organised to that effect.

Roundtable meeting: EU Budget Review - Consolidation of the Budget for Development Cooperation

The LDC Watch in partnership with Eurostep and the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) organised a roundtable meeting on EU Budget Review: Consolidation of the Budget for Development Cooperation in the context of the ongoing EU Budget review and the Commission's call for submission of public inputs on 10 June 2008 in Brussels, Belgium. The event was facilitated by Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA). The roundtable resulted in interactive deliberations between civil representatives from South Asia, Latin America and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, and members from the Commission, the Parliament, Member States, African embassies and European NGOs. Dr. Karki focused his attention on the issues pertaining to the Least Developed Countries.

Roundtable on Aid Effectiveness

On the occasion of CSO Parallel Forum on Aid Effectiveness held from August 31 to September 1, 2008 in Accra, Ghana, LDC Watch along

with South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and International South Group Network (ISGN) coorganised a roundtable entitled "Reflections from the South on Aid Effectiveness" on September 1, 2008.

The voices from the Global South was shared in the roundtable by Dr. Arjun Karki, Mr. Demba Dembele, Mr. Simon Stocker from LDC Watch, Mr. Alejandro Bendana from Nicaragua (ISGN), Mr Huguette A. Dosa from Benin (Social Watch), Ms. Lucky Sherpa from Nepal, Mr. Rezaul K. Chaudhury and Ahmed S. Mahmood from Bangladesh. The speakers in the roundtable agreed that the North owes the South and

demanded for the historical and ecological accountability of aid. Conditionality with which the aid is usually attached was also questioned critically by the speakers.

A joint statement by LDC Watch, SAAPE, ALOP, Social Watch, and Eurostep was also released on the occasion of CSO Parallel Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The statement drew attention of the concerned stakeholders on the international architecture of financing for development, threats to achieving the IADGs including the MDGs, flaws in Paris Declaration regarding the delivery of aid, linking the reforms in aid modalities with outcomes in poverty eradication, aid to address the

rising food crisis in the South and expectations for ensuring democratic and inclusive decision-making processes in making aid effective.

The chair and the SC members of LDC Watch have been involved in the whole process of Aid Effectiveness as members of Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. The chair of LDC Watch attended the III HLF on Aid Effectiveness from September 2-4, 2008 in Accra, Ghana. The involvement have been vital in following up with the Paris Declaration, refinement of Accra Agenda for Action and putting forward the perspectives of the CSOs from the LDCs in the CSO Position Paper on Aid Effectiveness. ●

LDC Watch Statement

Press Statement Released During the UNCTAD XII Conference

Accra, Ghana, 20-25 April 2008

In the context of the UNCTAD XII conference, LDC Watch calls on all respective Governments and development partners to consider and deliver on the following demands:

Food Sovereignty

The food crisis caused by the severe increase in food prices is an extremely serious threat which puts the lives of many in the LDCs in immediate jeopardy. The UN recently identified eleven LDCs with an "exceptional lack of access" to food, as well as hit by demonstrations sparked by the steep rise in basic foodstuffs, including Haiti, Eritrea, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Somalia and Senegal. One of the causes identified, the diversion to biofuels, has been described by some as "a crime against humanity". UNCTAD XII is asked to:

- Adopt clear targets to address this crisis to promote consumption and production of local crops raised by small, sustainable farms rather than in encouraging LDCs to specialise in cash crops for western markets.
- Promote national policies that involve the management of stocks and pricing, which will limit volatility of food prices and are vital

for the protection against such food crises.

- Recognise the principle of food sovereignty as an underlying principle for international trade in agricultural goods in order to ensure the protection of the poorest farmers and consumers.
- Identify supporting measures, such as safety nets and public distribution systems, to be put in place to prevent widespread hunger.

Climate Change

In LDCs the food crisis is exacerbated by climate change and urgent action is needed to tackle the problem. UNCTAD XII is asked:

- to commit to a five-year moratorium on biofuels until a second generation is developed.
- not to create parallel financing initiatives with asymmetrical governance structures, such as the proposal to establish a World Bank fund that would be donor driven.

Financial volatility

LDCs are particularly vulnerable to the financial volatility but have little if any influence over its making, as it is resulting from the international banking system. The instability is created by

industrialised countries banking systems for high profit returns, which inevitably carry great risks, born by tax-payers and by economies of developing countries. The potential for development of LDCs is constrained by the approaches of the international financial institutions in hedging the potential instability of the financial system by requiring reserves to be built by LDCs using aid money and therefore preventing the use of such funds for recurrent and productive costs. UNCTAD XII is asked to:

- Promote a stronger voice for LDCs in the decision-making structures of the IFIs.
- Promote global funding sources in addition to aid to provide support in circumstances of instability.
- Promote measures for the adequate regulation in the international banking system to mitigate against unsound risk, such as the proposals on taxes on international speculation.

Debt

The debt burden, in many LDCs, is often built on illegitimate lending processes, stemming from unequal power relations. It has been aggravated by conditionalities imposed by the IMF and the World Bank since the early 1980s.

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Debt and these conditionalities are among the leading factors in the abject poverty affecting LDCs.

The HIPC Initiative, launched in 1996 by the IFIs, has failed and the debt burden remains unsustainable constraining effective measures to tackle the eradicating of poverty in LDCs. The G8 decision in 2005 in Gleneagles (Scotland) is limited to a handful of LDCs and is laden with neoliberal conditionalities that tend to offset the potential "benefit" of debt alleviation.

Therefore, UNCTAD XII is asked to:

- Support the call for a speedy, unconditional and total cancellation of all debts in all LDCs.
- Support CSOs' claim that the debt of all LDCs is illegitimate
- Join CSOs in calling for an end to all IFIs' conditionalities
- Propose that all future lending to LDCs be in the form of grants
- Promote transparent rules and co-responsibility in future lending

Trade Justice

Trade is the engine of development and crucial for the sustainable development of the LDCs. Access of LDC products to developed country markets needs to be open and assured. Where barriers continue to exist these need to be taken away. UNCTAD XII is asked to:

- Promote mechanisms for supporting

capacity of LDCs to use the opportunities of globalisation and liberalisation which need to be addressed through adequate financing and transfer of technology.

- Promote regional trade whilst ensuring that LDCs be allowed to maintain levels of protection for the establishment of their own productive capacity in all regional and international trade agreements.
- Promote rules of origin be broadened to enable LDCs to benefit from opportunities to be recognised as part of production processes. This would enable significant added value of the countries concerned and contribute to its own development capacity.
- Give clear guidelines that financial compensation offered under trade and aid arrangements and in compensation for free trade arrangements must be additional to aid flows, and should be focussed on fostering the productive capacity of the LDCs and not finance the negotiations themselves, as often is the case.
- Ensure that the use of subsidies by developed countries that facilitates the competitiveness of their exports be stopped.

Democratic Accountability

Long-term sustainable development strategies require accountable and responsive governments. The protection of Human Rights, the rights of women,

the rights of children, indigenous peoples, freedom of speech and association as well as ILO Conventions all need to be enshrined in national laws and governments must do all in their ability to promote the implementations of these rights. Civil Society Organisations represent the diverse interests of citizens. UNCTAD XII is asked to:

- Promote governance with clear accountability mechanisms to national parliaments.
- Promote policies for the protection of Human Rights and ILO Conventions.
- Promote special measures for the protection of women's rights, and their equal access to economic opportunity and political representation and participation.
- Abolish all child labour and promote education for all.
- Promote social welfare systems, including health systems and access to sexual and reproductive health care.
- Promote the rights of indigenous peoples, especially the right to self-determination.
- Promote the creation of open and transparent societies where the diversity of civil society organisations is encouraged and freedom of speech and association are guaranteed. ●

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