



LDC Watch Position Paper

Synergy and Coherence between the IPoA and the SDGs



Background

In 1971, the United Nations (UN) recognised Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as the poorest and most vulnerable group of countries representing the highly disadvantaged countries in the development process. The UN classifies a country into LDC category on the basis of three criteria: per capita Gross National Income (GNI), Human Asset Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). Currently, 47 LDCs belong to the LDC category. In 2015, the population of LDCs was 954 million—13% of the world's total. In 2014, the LDCs had an average per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of only USD 952 which is less than 9% of the world average whereas OECD per capita GDP at the same period was USD 38,423. LDC economies grew at a rate of 5.6% in 2014—up from 5.26% in 2013. Under the current growth trajectory, nearly 35 per cent of the population in the LDCs may remain in extreme poverty by 2030 (World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2017).

For many LDCs, weak productivity growth, amid poorly diversified economic structures and insufficient levels of investment, remains a challenge to achieving stronger medium-term growth prospects. Investment would need to grow by an average of 11.3% per

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annum to close the productivity gaps and approach an average of GDP growth rate of 7% per annum (World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2017). If the current pattern continues, related shortfalls in essential investment also put at risk many other economic, social and environmental targets set in the SDGs. Growth in many LDCs also remains highly vulnerable due to ongoing armed conflicts, natural catastrophes and weather-related shocks. However, a few LDCs are expected to achieve a growth rate close to or above the 7 per cent target in 2017/2018, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Myanmar, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The international community has been paying special attention to LDCs through dedicated 10-year programmes of action to provide differential treatment to this specific group of countries since the early 1980s. Special UN conferences have been convened every ten years since 1981, the fourth of which, LDC IV, took place in Istanbul, Turkey in 2011. In

1971, when the category of LDCs was introduced for the first time, there were 25 LDCs but thereafter, within the span of four and a half decade, it has reached 47. This has raised a serious question over the current development process which has been leading to rising inequality.

Istanbul Programme of Action

The Fourth UN Conference of the LDCs adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Decade 2011-2020 (IPoA) with an overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed goals and enable graduation from the LDC category. It is an ambitious document that sets a target of enabling half the number of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. It includes eight priority areas for action: (1) productive capacity, (2) agriculture, food security and rural development, (3) trade, (4) commodities, (5) human and social development, (6) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (7) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building, and (8) good governance at all levels. Under the eight priority areas, the IPoA has 47 goals and targets. Besides, LDCs committed to undertake 126 actions and development partners committed to implement 109 actions. LDCs and development partners would jointly undertake 16 actions to implement the priority areas.

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of IPoA reveals that most of the LDCs are not on track although more than half of its implementation period has passed. Only two LDCs, namely Samoa and Equatorial Guinea, have graduated from the LDC category since its adoption compared to its goal of making half the number of LDCs graduate.



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Sustainable Development Goals

The first five years of the implementation of the IPoA overlapped with the last five years of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the next five years (or the second half) of the implementation of the IPoA concurs with the first five years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On expiry of the MDGs in 2015, that is, four years after the

adoption of the IPoA, the heads of states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the objective to fight poverty and achieve sustainable development during the next fifteen years. The 2030 Agenda, which came into effect on January 1 2016, focuses on all dimensions of sustainable development with a special focus on LDCs as the most vulnerable countries.

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The SDGs, with 17 goals and 169 targets as opposed to only 8 goals and 21 targets of the MDGs, are far more coherent, comprehensive and elaborate. SDGs address the root causes of poverty and the universal need for sustainable development. Besides

the social sectors, it emphasises on economic development and climate actions. The SDGs seek to promote economic growth, structural transformation, environmental sustainability and human development, peace, justice and institutions, which are priority areas for LDCs. The 2030 Agenda's special reference to equality under the headline "leaving no one behind" also reflects a strong overlap and interlinkage between the SDGs and the LDCs' issues. In this context, the LDC-specific issues advocated by the IPoA serve as supportive guidance for LDCs to achieve the SDGs. The MTR of the IPoA in 2016 also stressed the linkage with the 2030 Agenda. It reaffirmed the commitment to the full, effective and timely implementation of the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda as well as support for mainstreaming them into the national development policies and programmes of the LDCs.

Synergy and Coherence between the IPoA and the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development accommodates the needs and aspirations of the people globally, with special attention given to the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island developed States (SIDS). The 2030 Agenda reaffirms the outcomes of LDC IV Conference as a part of its shared vision and commitment. The eight interlinked priority areas of IPoA are covered in full and share a number of targets in common with the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda through its 17 goals and 169 targets address major issues of the LDCs, inter alia, poverty, food security, health, education, gender equality and empowerment, energy, climate

change and financing for development. The SDGs provide a broad and integrated development framework and aim to support the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the IPoA. Both the IPoA and the SDGs share the common objectives of enabling LDCs to overcome their current high poverty and make their development sustainable.

There is a strong overlap between the IPoA and the SDGs. The IPoA priorities are largely covered in the 2030 Agenda. In particular, in the areas of health, education, gender empowerment, poverty and hunger, energy, infrastructure as well as peace, justice and institutions, and means of implementation, significant similarities exist (UN-OHRLLS, 2016). Among all the SDGs, SDG 10 – reducing inequality within and among countries – has direct and great relevance to LDCs. Similarly, SDG 16.4, which calls for significantly reducing illicit financial and arm flows, is extremely important for the primary commodity-dependent LDCs. Meanwhile, with respect to implementation, country ownership and leadership is an important guiding principle of both the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda. IPoA recognises the right and responsibilities of the LDCs to formulate and execute their own coherent economic and development policies and strategies and identify their own national priorities (paragraph 29.a). Similarly, the 2030 Agenda also allows the government to set its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition and also decide how these targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. Moreover, the importance of monitoring and follow up at the national, regional and global levels – involving various stakeholders – has been

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stressed in the IPoA as well the 2030 Agenda. Hence, there are several areas of complementarity between the two global frameworks. The Political Declaration of the MTR of the IPoA also provides a roadmap for

the implementation of the two agenda in a coordinated manner.

However, differences between the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda occur in the level of specificity, deadlines for meeting some targets as well as actual thresholds to be achieved. In some cases, SDGs are more specific than IPoA. For instance, while IPoA simply states its overarching goal to end poverty, SDG dedicates its Goal 1 to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and has specific targets SDG 1.1 and SDG 1.2. Likewise, IPoA aims to make a substantial progress towards eradicating

hunger by 2020 while the deadline for similar goal is 2030 in SDG2. In terms of thresholds, SDGs have more specific thresholds in terms of lowering infant, child and maternal mortality rates.

On the other hand, the objectives, priorities, goals and targets of the IPoA are more targeted and specific as well as comprehensive in the areas of special focus to LDCs such as hunger, with special emphasis on agriculture; gender equality; energy; infrastructure; industrialisation; innovation and trade; climate change; and means of implementation (United Nations, 2015) (see Table 1). Also, due to broadness of the SDGs, some specific concerns of the LDCs are not highlighted well and in some LDC specific issues, IPoA addresses them in a more comprehensive manner than the SDGs. For example, graduating half of the LDCs by 2020 has been an important objective of the IPoA but there is no direct reference to LDCs' graduation efforts in the 2030 Agenda. In a similar context, the SDG target relating to commodities mainly focus on price volatility. However, the IPoA covers this priority in a more comprehensive manner by including the broadening of the LDCs' economic base in order to reduce commodity dependence, among others. Nevertheless, diversification in the context of the SDGs is covered in goal 9, which calls for promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation, among others.

Table 1 Areas of emphasis of IPoA in the context of the SDGs*

Level of comprehensiveness between IPoA and SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
IPoA more comprehensive than SDGs		X			X		X		X				X				
IPoA less comprehensive than SDGs	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	
IPoA as comprehensive as SDGs																	X

*Source: Global Sustainable Development Report 2015

Regarding the principle guiding its result orientation, the IPoA states that its success will be judged by its contribution to internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) and targets and enabling the least

developed countries to graduate. Hence, IPoA inherently aims to contribute towards the attainment of SDGs and its success is measured by the same. In fact, the IPoA provides concrete guidance to LDCs on how to achieve the SDGs. In this way, IPoA and 2030 Agenda are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Table 2 Comparison between IPoA and SDGs

	IPoA	SDGs
Objective	The overarching goal of IPoA is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve IADGs and enable graduation from the LDC category (Paragraph 27, IPoA). To achieve this goal, it has set the objectives of achieving at least 7 per cent of sustained economic growth per annum in LDCs, strengthening productive capacity, building human capacity, reducing economic vulnerability, increasing access to finance and maintaining good governance at all levels (Paragraph 28, IPoA).	SDG2 aims at ending all forms of poverty everywhere by 2030. Sustained per capita GDP growth rate of at least 7 per cent in LDCs is committed in SDG 8.1. Unlike IPoA, SDG does not emphasise the issue of meeting the graduation criteria by the LDCs.
Focus Area	Eradicate poverty, achieve IADGs and enable at least half the LDCs to meet graduation criteria	Achieve sustainable development in three dimensions – economic, social and environmental
Goal areas and targets	8 priority areas; 47 goals and targets	17 SDGs and 169 targets
Implementation Period	2011-2020	2016-2030
Productive capacity	The identified prerequisites in the IPoA for facilitating productive capacity are: infrastructure; energy; science, technology and innovation; and private sector development. On infrastructure, it calls for a significant increase in combined rail, road, sea and air networks by 2020. It also aims at ensuring energy access to all by 2030 with focus on renewables. Meanwhile, it calls for significant increase in access to telecommunication services and internet by 2020. It also recommends promoting an enabling environment for private sector development, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, through a transparent and rule-based regulatory framework.	SDG 9.1 calls for developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being. Likewise, SDG7 states ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030 with increase in the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Similar to the IPoA, it calls for providing universal and affordable access to the internet by 2020. SDG 9.2 and SDG 9.3 address the issue of private sector development.

	IPoA	SDGs
Agriculture, food security and rural development	In this priority area, IPoA aims to make substantial progress towards eradicating hunger by 2020, substantially increasing investment in rural infrastructure, and ensuring access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all LDCs.	In addition to the similar demands as those of the IPoA's three objectives on this priority area, SDG2 raises some specific issues which include nutrition targets, such as ending wasting and stunting in children and addressing nutrition needs of adolescent girls, pregnant, and lactating women (SDG 2.2).
Trade	IPoA calls for doubling the share of LDCs in global exports by 2020, including by broadening LDCs' export base (paragraph 65.a). It puts forward demands such as rectification of trade-distorting measures in agriculture; elimination of unjustified non-tariff barriers (NTBs); timely implementation of duty-free quota-free (DFQF) market access on a lasting basis for all LDCs; simple, transparent and predictable preferential rules of origin; implementation of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT); and increase in assistance through Aid for Trade (Aft) and Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), among many others.	SDG 17.11 entails doubling the LDCs' share of global exports by 2020. Similarly, SDG 17.12 calls for timely implementation of DFQF, and simple and transparent rules of origin. The issues of implementation of S&DT particularly for LDCs (SDG 10.a.) and increasing Aft through the EIF (SDG 8.a.) have also been raised in the 2030 Agenda.
Commodity	IPoA calls for better mitigation and management of risks associated with the volatility of commodity prices and underlines the need to reduce commodity dependence by broadening the LDCs' economic base (paragraph 68 and 69.2a).	While there is no separate goal on commodities among SDGs, SDG 2.c mentions the need to have proper functioning of food commodity markets and facilitate timely access to market information to limit extreme food price volatility. SDG also reflects on the issue of LDCs' economic diversification in Goal 9.b in which it calls for industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.

Human and Social Development	Human and social development goals in IPoA cover multitude of issues in the areas of education, population and primary health, youth development, shelter, water and sanitation, gender equality and empowerment, and social protection. Some of the specific goals include the provision of universal access to free primary education; significant reduction in infant, under-five and maternal mortality rate and child under-nutrition by 2020; full and effective youth participation in decision-making processes; sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to all by 2020; and equal access of women and girls to basic services, economic opportunities and decision-making at all levels.	Following the MDGs, the priorities of human and social development have received the highest attention in the SDGs with the first five SDGs dedicated to them. Call for universal education is extended up to secondary education in SDGs. Under youth development, the SDGs go further than the IPoA by incorporating targets 8.6 and 8.b on reducing the proportion of unemployed youth as well as operationalising a global strategy for youth unemployment, respectively.
Multiple crises and other emerging challenges	IPoA calls for financial and technical support to LDCs for risk mitigation and strengthening their capacity to deal with economic shocks as well as the adverse effects of climate change. It also calls for enhanced climate funding including early operationalisation of Green Climate Fund.	LDCs' vulnerability to various shocks has been highlighted in SDGs 1,2,13 and 15. Similar to the IPoA, the SDGs also recognize the need for building the resilience of poor and vulnerable people and reducing their exposure to climate, economic, social, environmental and disaster related shocks. In addition, the SDGs also call for reducing the number of deaths and people affected by disasters, as well as developing and implementing holistic disaster risk management at all levels, in line with the Sendai Framework (SDG 11.b).
Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building	IPoA calls on developed countries to fully implement their ODA commitments, including providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to LDCs. It also stresses on increasing the quality of aid and the need to align aid with LDCs' national priorities.	In SDG 17.2, Member States agree to implement their ODA commitments of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to LDCs. SDG 17.4 has more specific target on remittances in comparison to IPoA (paragraph 125). Attainment of long-term debt sustainability in all LDCs is mentioned in both IPoA (118.a, 118.b) and SDG (17.4)
Good governance at all levels	Prevention of corruption, promoting the rule of law, increasing transparency of budgets and expenditures and improving institutional capacity in LDCs to ensure good governance have been targeted in both IPoA (paragraph 129.a-b) and SDGs (16.3, 16.5).	Additional targets on combating terrorism and crime are included in SDGs (SDG 16.a).

Achieving the Synergy and Coherence: Way Forward

Since the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda share similar goals and targets on the issues of LDCs, there should be synergy and coherence in implementation, review and monitoring of these global frameworks in order to mobilise resources effectively and accelerate towards meeting the set goals and targets. Identification of commonalities between the IPoA and the SDGs and working towards

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their implementation will guide LDCs in prioritising the specific SDGs which are of their particular interest. It helps to direct the resources towards the LDC-specific agenda. It also avoids duplication of efforts in monitoring and reporting the progress in both the IPoA and the SDGs. However, achieving the synergy and coherence is not limited to the identification of commonalities. It requires sincere efforts towards policy integration; coordination in implementation mechanism involving crosscutting issues; allocation of adequate budget; multi-stakeholder partnership; and bringing uniformity in monitoring mechanism. There should be strong national leadership and ownership of IPoA and SDGs to ensure rapid, equitable and sustainable development in LDCs. To take advantage of the synergy and coherence between the IPoA and the SDGs, LDC Watch recommends the following actions to be taken by the LDC governments, development partners, civil societies and other stakeholders.

- Policy is the major instrument and initiating point for bringing about development envisioned in the IPoA and the SDGs.

To realize the identified synergy between the IPoA and the SDGs, the two global frameworks need to be enhanced and integrated into respective national policies of the LDCs.

Hence, to realize the identified synergy between the IPoA and the SDGs, the two global frameworks need to be enhanced and integrated into respective national policies of the LDCs to facilitate their timely implementation. The appropriate design of policies to support these objectives requires a deep un-

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derstanding of the LDCs' issues including poverty, slow economic growth, inequality, low productivity, need for inclusive and resilient infrastructure, social protection, climate change and green technology.

- For those LDCs who have already integrated IPoA into national development plans, incorporation of the SDGs into national plans will require a thorough scrutiny of the SDG agenda vis-à-vis national plans. Hence, an assessment to understand the extent to which SDGs is already aligned in national plans will be useful.
- Many LDCs are also found to be giving more priority to SDGs in their planning processes with less focus on the IPoA. In case of Nepal, albeit the main objective of LDCs' graduation into a developing country is included in the national plan, planning based on the priority areas of the IPoA has not been done, and more focus has been given to the SDGs. The Government of Nepal has mainstreamed SDGs into its Fourteenth Three Year Plan (2016/17 - 2018/19) and has planned to graduate the country into a developing country by 2022 and into a middle income country by 2030. The annual programmes and budgets of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18 have been aligned with the SDGs by introducing SDGs coding to each and every programme. In

such case, we recommend that the IPoA should also find a suitable place in the development plans of LDCs since it delves into the focussed priorities of the LDCs towards the SDGs.

- LDCs should engage among themselves and learn from one another's experiences in mainstreaming the IPoA and the SDGs into national planning processes. For example, 76 per cent of the SDG targets have been mainstreamed in the National Development Plan of Uganda. The mainstreaming of SDGs into the national development plan of Uganda is accompanied with cascading of the SDGs to sector and local government planning and implementation frameworks (UNOHRRLLS, 2016). Similarly, one third of the SDGs are already aligned with Bangladesh's Seventh Five Year Plan while 22 per cent of targets are partially aligned (Alam, 2016).
- LDC governments should build strong institutional mechanism where specific ministries and departments will be responsible for overseeing both prioritisation and implementation of actions. Enhancing the institutional capacity to increase the absorptive capacity of the LDCs is emphasised in both the 2030 Agenda and the IPoA. Appropriate policy reforms and a supportive and effective institutional setting would ensure an efficient and accountable resource utilisation. For such reforms, LDCs in addition to their domestic efforts require technical and financial support from the development partners and the developed countries.
- Garnering the financial resources to set LDCs on a path to rapid growth remains a key challenge for achieving the IPoA targets and the SDGs. Since pursuing SDGs and IPoA targets require huge amount of finance, LDCs cannot pursue them without international public aid which is the most important source of development finance. Adequate budget should be allocated for the implementation of the IPoA and the SDGs considering all sources of financing outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), including the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the South-South Cooperation. This also brings forth the issue of effectiveness of aid for which better coordination, both of donors with recipient government as well as among donors, is required. It demands on the part of the development partners and the recipient countries to adhere to global agreements on aid effectiveness, such as the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

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- Countries need to learn from the experiences they gathered during the implementation of the MDGs and the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA). It was found that a silo approach was used to pursue the MDGs; trade-offs and synergies within various ministries and departments of government were not taken into account. For example, in Uganda, due to the limited alignment of the national development with the MDGs, a separate financing, implementation and reporting framework was put in place (Tentrop, 2015). Similarly, poor implementation record of the BPoA was largely attributed to weak accountability (Bhattacharya, 2014). Hence, it is of utmost importance that the relevant ministries and government bodies coordinate among themselves while pursuing the crosscutting issues of the IPoA and the SDGs. Appropriate inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms should be put in place to promote effective and continuous monitoring of SDGs and IPoA so that vertical and horizontal coordination is ensured on a continuous basis.
- It is important to have a broader participation of stakeholders, including government representatives, members of parliament, academics, civil society, private sector, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, trade bodies and media, to take up the integration, implementation and follow-up of the SDGs and the IPoA at all levels of governance. However, the capacity of these stakeholders also needs to be enhanced for them to meaningfully engage in the implementation and follow-up.

- Civil society organisations (CSOs), in particular, should actively involve themselves in sensitising public, political leadership and policymakers for including the LDC specific agenda in national policies. Sierra Leone, for example, has informed parliament about the SDGs and organised sensitisation workshops with civil society, local councils, and academia. CSOs should also continue to explore more space to raise their voices in all national, regional and international platforms for integrating the IPoA and the SDGs.
- Capacity constraints and limited financial resources of the LDCs also make it necessary for them to prioritise and sequence the implementation of the IPoA and the SDGs by taking into account the interdependencies, synergies and trade-offs across goals, targets and indicators. Therefore, international developed partners must continue to extend their support and solidarity to enhance LDCs' capacity through skill sharing, technology transfer, and economic cooperation.
- It is crucial for the planning bodies to identify risks and vulnerability to external shocks and ensure that national development plans include the building of resilience and risk management. For this, national policies of the LDCs built around the IPoA and the SDGs should also be responsive to other global agreements such as the Paris Climate Accord, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) framework.
- Equally important is to align the monitoring processes at the national, regional and global levels in the areas where the IPoA overlaps the SDGs, so as to avoid duplication and excessive reporting burden on national systems. LDCs do not have ample statistical capacity to monitor the progress in achieving the SDGs and the IPoA. Disaggregated and relevant data are needed in much larger scale to make informed decisions. There is an urgent need to strengthen national statistical system in all levels of governance. Realizing the capacity constraints, LDCs need to prioritise the data to be collected according to the national needs. For instance, SDGs have 230 indicators and for the monitoring process, LDCs need to prioritise the indicators according to national requirements.
- Recognizing limited finance, weak implementation capacity and low technical capacity of the LDCs, development partners should pledge financial and technical assistance to the LDCs

for achieving the IPoA and the SDG targets. Increased investment support is needed for adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for LDCs. Developed countries should fulfil their commitment to provide 0.7 percent of their Gross National Income (GNI) for ODA and specifically 0.15 to 0.20 percent of GNI to the LDCs, as recommitted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) in 2015.

LDC Watch believes that the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda complement one another. On one hand, the 2030 Agenda takes a more comprehensive approach to the issues including, inter alia, poverty, inequality and climate change, which are also of special importance to LDCs. On the other hand, IPoA provides concrete guidance to LDCs on how to achieve the SDGs. Linking SDGs with IPoA is a meaningful partnership to bring SDGs sustainable development to LDCs. This will help in the localisation and ownership of the agenda to the grass root level and bring specificity to the targeted goals. Through synergy with the 2030 Agenda, IPoA can get the LDC-specific issues more emphasised in global goals. The coherence of IPoA targets with the SDGs also unifies the efforts from different stakeholders in the LDCs and prevents duplication of efforts. Hence, we urge the LDCs and development partners to identify and take advantage of the coherence among the priority areas of the IPoA and the SDGs and work together to accelerate the march towards sustainable development. The IPoA could be recognised as the dedicated priorities of LDCs going towards SDGs. Therefore, we call for an effective implementation of the priority areas of the IPoA to significantly contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

About LDC Watch

LDC Watch is a global network of national, regional and international civil society organisations (CSOs), alliances and movements based in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), defined by the United Nations (UN). It acts as a coordinating body for LDC civil society to advocate, campaign and network for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020 and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since its establishment in 2001, LDC Watch has been raising its voice and articulating its perspectives in a multi-stakeholder framework, engaging with the UN, LDC governments and their development partners, both as partner and pressure group. LDC Watch has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is accredited to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



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