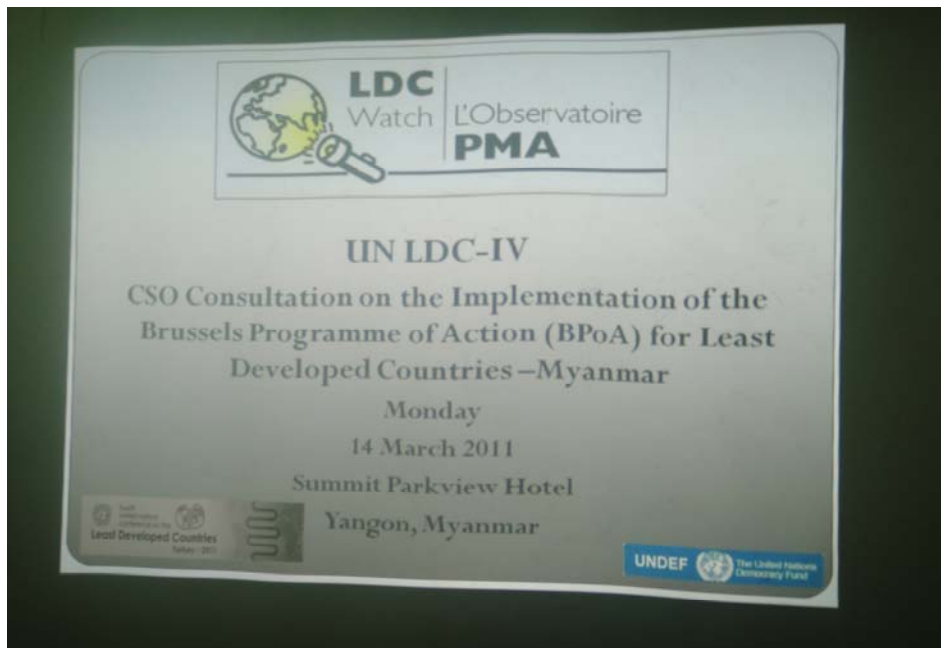


Report on CSO Consultations on the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries

Reported to : LDC Watch/L'Observatoire PMA
Reported by : Chit Ko Ko Oo (Myanmar Resource Foundation)
Susanna Hla Hla Soe (Karen Women Action Group)
Date : March 14, 2011
Venue : Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Time : 09:00 AM to 12:00 AM



I. Objectives of the meeting

The specific objectives of the national multi-stakeholder consultations were:

- ✓ Awareness-raising on the LDCs and the BPoA among all stakeholders, namely, representatives from the government, CSOs including NGOs, the UN system and development partner organizations
- ✓ Awareness-raising on the upcoming UN LDC-IV Conference and the civil society track that will culminate at the Civil Society Forum that will take place prior to and in parallel to the official Conference.
- ✓ Sharing and reviewing of issues and constraints confronting all stakeholders towards the effective implementation of the BPoA, along the lines of the 7 commitments.
- ✓ Strategy planning in the lead up to UN LDC-IV and recommendations for preparing an effective, pro-people, next-generation Programme of Action for the LDCs
- ✓ Networking, campaigning and advocacy in the lead up to LDC-IV and on the implementation of the BPoA with all stakeholders at all levels
- ✓ Alliance-building from national to regional to global levels on the LDCs and the BPoA process

II. The Program :

Time	Session	Speaker
9:00-9:15	Registration	
9:15-9:20	Calls the meeting	Susanna Hla Hla Soe Facilitator of National Consultations
9:20-9:45	Opening Remark	Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet (Senior Advisor, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Myanmar)
9:45-10:15	Presentation on the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries	LDC Watch representative (Dr. Arjun Karki)
10:15-10:30	Tea & Coffee Break	
10:30-11:30	Round Table Discussion	Participants
11:30-11:45	Highlights of the day and Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries	Dr. Khin Zaw Win (Tanpadipa Institute, Myanmar representative)
11:45-12:00	Wrap up and Closing remarks	Prof. Aung Tun Thet & LDC Watch representative (Dr. Arjun Karki)
12:00	Lunch	

III. Brief Background of the Event

In 22-23 November 2010, civil society representatives from nine Asian Least Developed Countries (LDCs) met in Bangkok, Thailand to review progress corresponding to Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to firm up civil society positions in the lead-up to the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs (UN LDC-IV), to be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9-13 May 2011.

Two of the representatives of CSO from Myanmar were given the chance to attend this meeting and were inspired to spread awareness of this information from the grassroots level to the national level. Also Dr. Arjun Karki, International Coordinator of LDC watch and his team suggested that this meeting be organised in Myanmar.

We successfully finished the National Consultations on the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries at the Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar on 14 March 2011 with the support of Dr. Arjun Karki and the LDC Watch team.

IV. Brief Biography of the presenters and their presentation slide

Curriculum Vitae (Dr. Aung Tun Thet)



Education background He obtained a Bachelor of Commerce from the Institute of Economics in 1965 and in 1972 completed a postgraduate diploma in Management Studies from Brighton Polytechnic, England. In 1973, he was awarded a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Operational Research from the University of Warwick, England. He did his PhD at the Institute of Science and Technology, University of Manchester, England, in 1977. In 1986 he began postdoctoral studies at the University of Marburg, Germany, for two and half years. He received an Alexander von Humboldt postdoctoral fellowship award and published a thesis titled Myanmar Entrepreneurship: Creative Response in the Colonial Economy.

Working and teaching experiences

He was a tutor at the Institute of Economics in Yangon in 1966. Then he worked as the director general of the Department of Health Planning, under the Ministry of Health, from 1989 to 1992, when he was appointed to a senior position at the Cost and Economics Unit at UNICEF headquarters in New York. From 1997 to 2000, he was senior program planning officer for UNICEF in Dhaka. Then he spent a year as regional planning monitoring and evaluation officer at UNICEF’s East Asia and Pacific regional office in Bangkok. He was appointed as a professor in UN System Staff College in 2000 and he has been conducting training on management and leadership for all senior UN officials. The training courses are held in Turin and in UN offices around the world.

National Consultations on the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries


Opening Remarks

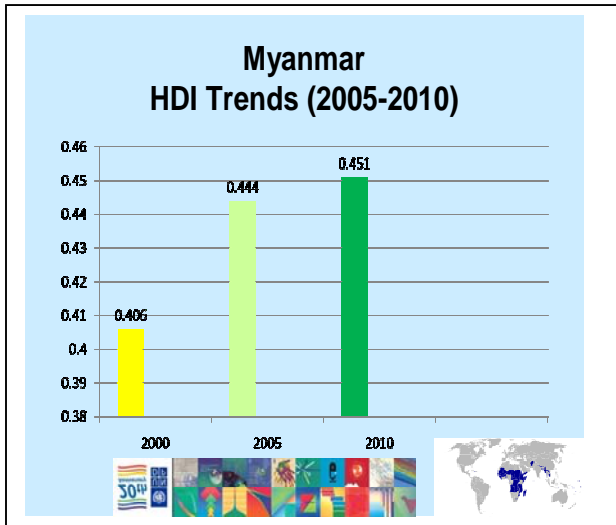
Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet
 Senior Advisor, UN Resident
 Coordinator’s Office, Myanmar
 (aungtunthet@gmail.com)



HDI Rank, Value, Category of ASEAN Countries

Country	Rank	Value	Category
Singapore	27	0.846	Very High
Brunei Darussalam	37	0.805	Very High
Malaysia	57	0.744	High
Thailand	92	0.654	Medium
Philippines	97	0.638	Medium
Indonesia	108	0.600	Medium
Viet Nam	115	0.572	Medium
Lao PDR	122	0.497	Medium
Myanmar	132	0.451	Low





Myanmar HDI Rank Change

2005-2010	6
2009-2010	0

- ### Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
- For the decade 2001-2010
 - Time bound comprehensive poverty reduction strategy
 - 30 internationally agreed development goals,
 - including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
-

- ### Overarching goal
- “ ... to make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015,
 - and promote the sustainable development of the least developed countries.
-

- ### Commitment
1. Fostering a people-centered policy framework
 2. Good governance at national and international level
 3. Building human and institutional capacities
 4. Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs
 5. Enhancing the role of trade in development
 6. Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment
 7. Mobilizing financial resources (ODA)
-

- ### Concerted efforts
- GoUM,
 - Development partners,
 - UN system organisations,
 - IFIs,
 - Trade institutions,
 - Civil society,
 - Private sector.
-

UN Country Team

- Strategic Planning
- National Development Priorities – MDGs-based
- *Thematic Analysis*
- *UN Strategic Framework (2012-2015)*
- *4 Strategic Priorities*
- *13 Strategic Outcomes*
- ODA



UN Country Team

- Strategic Planning
- National Development Priorities – MDGs-based
- *Thematic Analysis*
- *UN Strategic Framework (2012-2015)*
- *4 Strategic Priorities*
- *13 Strategic Outcomes*
- ODA



Role of Civil Society

- Inputs and contributions
- Actively engaged and involved
- Involved in the implementation and follow-up, monitoring and review of the progress made by LDCs and the success of the implementation of the BPoA



Comments/Suggestions

- Evidence-based
- Constructive
- Non-judgmental
- Solutions not Problems
- *“We are in it together”*



Dr Arjun Karki



Dr Arjun Karki is the International Coordinator of LDC Watch. LDC Watch has been entrusted by the UN-OHRLS with globally coordinating the civil society process towards and at the LDC-IV. Dr. Karki is also the Chairperson and Spokesperson of the Civil Society Forum.

Dr. Karki elaborated on Dr. Aung Tun Thet's presentation and gave a more in-depth information on the BPoA and the UN Conferences on the LDCs. He talked about the Civil Society Forum that will take place in parallel to the upcoming UN LDC-IV Conference and encouraged active participation from the Burmese Civil Society towards and at the CSF.

He also shed light on the importance of the immediate and effective implementation of the upcoming Istanbul Programme of Action.

UN LDC-IV
 CSO Consultation on the Implementation of the
 Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for Least
 Developed Countries –Myanmar
 Monday
 14 March 2011
 Summit Parkview Hotel
 Yangon, Myanmar

**A brief look at the Least
 Developed Countries (LDCs)
 and UN LDC-IV**

**Least Developed Countries
 (LDCs)**

- 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the world
- Home to about 850 million people
- In 1971, the United Nations identified 24 countries as Least Developed Countries
- LDC Criteria reviewed every three years by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Latest review in March 2009


LDC Criteria Today

- The **“Low-Income”** criterion
 - GNI per capita, with a threshold of \$905 for addition to the list, and a threshold of \$1,086 for graduation
- The **“Human Assets Weakness”** criterion involving a composite index (the Human Assets Index) based on indicators of:
 - Nutrition
 - Health
 - School Enrolment
 - Literacy

LDC Watch | L'Observatoire PMA

LDC Criteria Today

- The “Economic Vulnerability” criterion, involving a composite index (the Economic Vulnerability Index) based on indicators of:
 - Natural Shocks
 - Trade Shocks
 - Exposure to Shocks
 - Economic Smallness
 - Economic Remoteness



A country will qualify to be added to the list of LDCs if it meets the addition thresholds on all three criteria and does not have a population greater than 75 million.

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List of LDCs

33 in Africa

Angola	Benin	Burkina Faso [#]
Burundi [#]	Central African Republic [#]	Chad [#]
Comoros [*]	Democratic Republic of Congo	Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea	Ethiopia [#]
Gambia	Guinea	Guinea Bissau [*]
Lesotho [#]	Liberia	Madagascar
Malawi [#]	Mali [#]	Mauritania
Mozambique	Niger [#]	Rwanda [#]
Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal	Sierra Leone
Somalia	Sudan	Togo
Uganda	Tanzania	Zambia [#]

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List of LDCs

9 in Asia

Afghanistan [#]	Bangladesh	Bhutan [#]
Cambodia	Lao People's Democratic Republic [#]	
Myanmar	Nepal [#]	
Timor-Leste [*]	Yemen	

5 in the Pacific

Kiribati [*]	Samoa [*]	Solomon Islands [*]
Tuvalu [*]	Vanuatu [*]	

1 in the Caribbean

Haiti [*]

[#] Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
^{*} Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

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Inclusion and Graduation

- The last two countries to be added to the group are Senegal (2001) and East Timor (2003)
- Only Botswana (1994), Cape Verde (2007) and the Maldives (2011) have graduated from the LDC group
- Samoa was supposed to graduate in December 2010, but in its resolution 64/295, the UNGA decided to extend Samoa's transition period by three years, until 1 January 2014 prior to its graduation from the LDC Status.
- The 2009 triennial review recommended that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries.
- Tuvalu and Vanuatu were considered eligible but not recommended for graduation due to doubts about the sustainability of their progress.

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Common LDC Traits

- Extreme poverty
- Vulnerability Towards External Shocks, e.g. the Recent Financial and Climate Crises
- Poor Health Services
- Water and Energy Poverty
- Conflict
- Lack of Gender Parity
- Debt Burden
- Lack of adaptive capacity to deal with natural disasters
- Weak democratic institutions
- Lofty rhetoric and plans but very little implementation or accountability

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Politics and Economy in LDCs

- More than half the 800 million people in the LDCs live on less than a dollar a day
- Women in LDCs have a one in 16 chance of dying in childbirth, compared to one in 3500 in North America
- More than 300 million Africans are food insecure
- highly dependent of external sources of funding, including official development assistance, workers' remittances and foreign direct investment
- Poor housing, over-dependence on natural resources and the lack of adaptive capacity all people in LDCs at a greater risk to the impact of climate change than people in other countries.
- Many LDCs are also small islands whose very survival is threatened by rising sea levels.

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LDC Specific UN Actions

- The First United Nations Conference on the LDCs was held in Paris in 1981. It adopted a comprehensive Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the LDCs.
- The Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UN LDC-II) was held in 1990, also in Paris, adopting the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s.
- The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UN LDC-III) was held in Brussels, hosted by the European Union from 14 to 20 May 2001.
- UN LDC-III adopted the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the decade 2001-2010

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Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA)

- In May 2001, Third UN Conference on the LDCs (UN LDC III) declared the BPoA for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010
- Aimed to ensure sustainable development and poverty eradication for LDCs during the decade 2001-2010
- Contains 7 mutual commitments and 30 international development goals with indicators, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

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Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA)

The 7 mutual commitments of LDCs and development partners:

- Fostering a people-centered policy framework
- Good governance at national and international levels
- Building human and institutional capacities
- Building productive capacities to make globalisation work for LDCs
- Enhancing the role of trade in development
- Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment and
- Mobilizing financial resources

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4th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UN LDC-IV)

- Istanbul, Turkey (9-13 May 2011)
- Review the implementation of the BPoA (National, Regional and Global) and adopt follow up strategies
- Opportunity to reflect on the failure of BPoA to achieve sustained results intended
- Mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the LDCs
- Adopt new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of the LDCs into the next decade
- UNOHRRLLS has entrusted LDC Watch to lead and coordinate the civil society process towards UN LDC-IV
- Role of Civil Society recognised in UN Resolution A/RES/63/277

fourth united nations conference on the **Least Developed Countries** Turkey - 2011



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Process and Preparations leading to UN LDC-IV

- **National consultations** ongoing in the LDCs
- **Regional consultations**
- Two intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) sessions and the Interactive Civil Society Hearing
- A series of pre-conference events are also being held in preparation for LDC-IV
- Culmination with the **Civil Society Forum (CSF)** parallel to the LDC IV in Istanbul, Turkey from 7-13 May 2011

LDC Watch | Observatoire PMA **CSF Preparatory Process**

- **National reviews**
 - Guidelines to national governments by the UN-OHRLLS call for national preparations to be broad-based and participatory – including Civil Society, private sector, media, development partners, and others
 - Initial opportunity for CSOs to engage with the Reviews
 - Involvement of civil society at this level can provide constructive inputs for the national report
 - Can also provide the basis for better engagement of Civil Society with respective national governments

LDC Watch | Observatoire PMA **CSF Preparatory Process**


- **Regional Reviews**
 - **Africa LDC Assembly:** 4-5 March 2010 in Addis Ababa in the lead-up to the official regional review of the BPoA in Africa
 - **Pacific LDC Assembly:** 3-6 August 2010 in Port Vila, Vanuatu
 - **Asia LDC Assembly:** 22-23 November 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand

LDC Watch | Observatoire PMA **Intergovernmentation Preparatory Committee Meetings**

- The first Session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) took place in New York, from 10 to 14 January 2011
- The second Intergovernmental PrepCom Meeting will also be held in New York from 4 to 8 April 2011
- The President of the General Assembly (PGA) has been requested by the UNGA to organise a day of informal interactive hearings with members of the civil society before the second session of the Intergovernmental PrepCom.
- The hearings are scheduled to be held on 1 April 2011.

LDC Watch | Observatoire PMA **Civil Society Forum (CSF)**

- Alongside the official LDC IV Conference (7-13 May 2011)
- The CSF as a culmination of a set of activities, including national reviews, regional preparatory meetings and Preparatory Committee meetings
- The basis of the engagement of civil society actors should be within the LDCs themselves, but with active support of civil society from other developing and developed countries
- Unique chance to showcase the value of our contribution and work
- Mobilise for the effective and immediate follow-up of the implementation of the next generation Programme of Action



LDC Watch | Observatoire PMA **Organisational Structure**


International Steering Committee
 The Steering Committee comprises of Civil Society representatives from different regions:

- **LDCWatch:** Arjun Karki
 akarki@gmail.com, akarki@ldcwatch.org
- **African Forum on Alternatives:** Demba Moussa Dembele
 E-mail: dembuss@hotmail.com
- **Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) – Ethiopia:**
 Azeb Girmai
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- **Jubilee South-Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD):**
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LDC Watch | Observatoire PMA **We want to know from you**


- What are the challenges in the path towards sustainable development in Myanmar?
- What it being done in terms of alliance-building and strengthening network amongst Myanmar CSOs in raising awareness regarding the BPoA?
- How much has Myanmar been successful in the implementation of the BPoA?
- Are CSOs able to engage at any level with the national government?
- What are the challenges for effective CSO mobilisation?
- What are the development prospects for the next decade (2011-2020)?



Partners




+
CSO Divisions of UNDP and other UN agencies
Governments of LDCs, development partners, host country



About LDC Watch

- LDC Watch is a global alliance of national, regional and international civil society organisations (CSOs), networks and movements based in the LDCs and supported by civil society from development partner countries
- Coordinating body for LDC civil society to advocate, lobby, campaign and network for the realisation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) as well as other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs)
- Major campaigns on the
 - Civil Society review of the implementation of the BPoA
 - Millennium Development Goals
 - Water and Energy Poverty
 - Effects of Multiple Crises on the LDCs

Curriculum Vitae (Dr. Khin Zaw Win)



Myanmar citizen, residing in Myanmar; Served under Department of Health, Myanmar, at Taunggyi and Yangon General Hospital, and under Ministry of Health, Sabah, Malaysia.

Consultant at UNICEF Yangon 1991-92. Master in Public Policy programme, National University of Singapore, 1993-94. From 1994 – July 2005: Prisoner of conscience in Myanmar for "seditious writings" and human rights work.

Fellowship at New York Office of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Oct - Nov 2007. Research topic: *Stabilizing the Peace in Myanmar*. Speaking Tour – to ten universities

and colleges in the United States. 2008 January to March: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chevening Fellow at University of Birmingham, U.K. "*What Makes Democracy Work?*"

Worked at International Development Enterprises, an INGO, from 2008-10. It included rural development, cyclone relief and agricultural policy. At present Director of Tampadipa Institute, which builds capacity for civil society organizations around the country.

Also occupied with explaining and helping overcome the long-standing situation of a country caught in political stasis, unbalanced development, unending armed conflict and geopolitical rivalry.

Recent publications : "2010 and the Unfinished Task of Nation-Building" in *Ruling Myanmar: from Cyclone Nargis to National Elections* Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2010.

Abstract of Closing remark by Dr. Khin Zaw Win:

"I am very happy and I feel privileged to be speaking here at what is perhaps the first ever discussion on LDCs here in Myanmar by civil society. As we all know, Myanmar was classified as a LDC in December 1987 and Myanmar's problems in that regard are two-fold: one in becoming a LDC and two, in being denied the benefits and assistance that are supposed to accrue upon a LDC.

The decade of the BPoA coincided with a long period of political impasse in Myanmar's lengthy and difficult transition to democracy. I have said elsewhere that what are non-solutions to Myanmar's political problems have imposed huge costs upon the population. Myanmar is unique in that, after being declared a LDC, the burdens have increased in many respects due to the ongoing political deadlock.

Many of Myanmar's development partners appear to have neglected the fact that it is a LDC. There is little mention of it anywhere, since the status for Myanmar is somewhat meaningless. Myanmar's distancing from the IFIs means that there is no effort to undertake a PRSP. The government is clearly uncomfortable with the LDC status and plays it down. Donors on their side do not wish to focus on it because it could highlight the dissonance: the withholding of aid and the imposition of sanctions on a LDC.

I would like to quote from a recent International Crisis Group report:

The longstanding and serious failures of the Myanmar government have resulted in a country that faces multiple crises. But international policies are also failing Myanmar and its people. Chronically low levels of aid, a lack of vital technical assistance and capacity building, and a stubborn insistence by some within the West to cling to failed policies of sanctions and isolation, have only served to exacerbate the negative impacts of poor governance.

Right now, the EU is debating whether it should continue its sanctions upon Myanmar or not. It is hoped that Myanmar's acute situation shall be given due attention at the UN LDC IV Conference in May. It is one of my cherished dreams that Myanmar shall graduate from LDC status, something that requires assiduous effort and progress in both political transition and economic development."

V. Remarks and discussions from the participants



- **Dr. Aung Tun Thet (UNDP):** The government officials/counterparts should be included in this kind of consultation.

- **Isaac Khin (GDI):** The BPoA should be shared and spread out among the development agents and organizations. We have accountable for LDC. Achieving of MDG the solidarity of all stake holders LNGOs, INGOs, members of paliments and private sectors should work closely.

- **HE. Ms. Gunalaxmi Sharma (Ambassador of Nepal):** Status of women's organization should be included in LDC criteria

- **Myo Win (Smile Education):** Economic sanction on Myanmar has being shared to LDC status, it should be target sanction.

- **Kyaw Swar Pu (UNHCR):** The relationship among UN, government and CSO is very dynamic. Inclusiveness is very important. CSO like dental association, Nurses association, Myanmar Medical association, UMFCCI and faith-based organization are very important to be involved.



Participants' list

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26.	HE. Ms Guna Laxmi Sharma	Ambassador, Nepal	