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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions: Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development****Letter dated 14 May 2012 from the Chairman of the National Committee for ESCAP of Cambodia addressed to the Secretary of the Commission**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the National Committee for ESCAP presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and, in reference to the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which was jointly organized by ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and held in Bangkok from 14 to 16 December 2011, has the honour to transmit to the secretariat the text of the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The Royal Government of Cambodia further has the honour to request that the Regional Road Map be brought to the attention of the Commission at its sixty-eighth session during its consideration of item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda.

*(Signed)***Ly Thuch**

Senior Minister

Chairman of the National Committee for ESCAP

Vice-President of National Committee for Disaster Management

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Regional Road Map is issued in the language of submission only.

**Annex to the letter dated 14 May 2012 from the Chairman of the National Committee for ESCAP of Cambodia addressed to the Secretary of the Commission**

**Regional Road Map for implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in Asia and the Pacific region for the Decade 2011-2020\***

*Executive Summary*

The Regional Road Map for implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Asia-Pacific LDCs, was adopted by the ESCAP/OHRLLS Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Decade 2011-2020, held from 14 to 16 December 2011 in Bangkok. It contains a set of capacity development activities aimed at delivering knowledge products, dissemination and advocacy, expert services, and reviews, monitoring and evaluation, and provides a basis for formulating technical assistance programmes and projects at regional, sub-regional and national levels. It identifies the key agencies and entities which would be involved in delivering these products and services at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

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\* This Regional Road Map has been issued without formal editing.

## I. Introduction

Senior policy makers and other participants from the Asia-Pacific LDCs and their development partners, attending the ESCAP/OHRLLS Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Decade 2011-2020 from 14 to 16 December 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, adopted the Regional Road Map for implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Asia-Pacific LDCs. Organized soon after the UN LDC IV Conference, held in May 2011 in Istanbul, the ESCAP/OHRLLS Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting was the first of its kind in initiating the implementation process of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Decade 2011-2020 in Asia and the Pacific region.

The main objective of the Regional Road Map for implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) provides a framework for action, both at the national level and in the form of regional partnership that would add value to national development strategies and processes in the Asia-Pacific LDCs. This road map indicates the course of action for coordinating the activities of the relevant regional organizations and agencies to act together with the Asia-Pacific LDCs to sharpen country-level efforts. It is expected that each LDC, given its specific circumstances, will have its own development strategies, plans and programmes. The Regional Road Map is only indicative and aimed at facilitating the implementation of the IPoA. It no way precludes the initiatives and actions the LDCs and their development partners individually or collectively may wish to adopt and pursue.

The Regional Road Map has two broad components: (i) a regional and subregional implementation strategy for the Asia-Pacific LDCs; and (ii) a set of deliverables for implementing IPoA in the Asia-Pacific region. The first component covers the strategic thrusts in each of the eight priority areas as identified in the IPoA. The deliverables for implementing the IPoA, on the other hand, includes several categories of products and services to be delivered by UN organizations, funds and programmes, including the multilateral funding institutions, either in partnership or individually, in both cases working with the LDCs. These deliverables are: (i) analytical and normative studies and reports on regional awareness creation and consensus building on issues critical to the LDCs and their development partners; (ii) dissemination and advocacy; (iii) mobilizing resources and provision of expert services; (iv) follow up, monitoring and review; (v) mainstreaming IPoA in development cooperation including in the national development strategies of the LDCs; and (vi) identifying substantive measures to enhance contribution of international organizations. These products and services correspond to the priority concerns for implementing the IPoA.

## II. The Istanbul Programme of Action

Under the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), it has been agreed that the national policies of the LDCs and international support measures during the decade 2011-2020 will focus on the following five core objectives:

- Achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in LDCs, to at least at the level of 7 percent per annum, by

strengthening their productive capacity in all sectors through structural transformation and overcoming their marginalization through their effective integration into the global economy, including through regional integration;

- Build human capacities by fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development, gender equality, and the empowerment of women;
- Reduce the vulnerability of LDCs to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges through strengthening their resilience;
- Ensure enhanced financial resources and their effective use for LDCs' development, including through domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance (ODA), external debt relief, foreign direct investment and remittances;
- Enhance good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthen least developed country governments' capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development.

Both the LDCs and the development partners also agreed to adopt eight fundamental principles which will guide the implementation of the Programme of Action based on a strengthened framework of partnership. These are: (i) country ownership and leadership; (ii) an integrated approach; (iii) genuine partnership; (iv) result orientation; (v) peace and security, development and human rights; (vi) equity; (vii) voice and representation; and (viii) balanced role of the State and market considerations.

The IPoA is based on a renewed and strengthened partnership between the LDCs and the development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interrelated areas in order to overcome the shortcomings of the BPoA. It has been agreed that the LDCs, on their part, will integrate the IPoA into their national and sectoral development strategies and plans in order to indicate concrete measures. Development partners, on their part, will implement the IPoA by integrating it into their respective cooperation policy frameworks, programmes, and activities to ensure enhanced, predictable, and targeted support to LDCs, as agreed in the IPoA. A number of supportive measures would also be critical for effective implementation of the IPoA, including (i) assistance of the developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation; (ii) sub-regional and regional cooperation including enhanced sub-regional and regional connectivity and strengthened responses to threats and crises of various kinds; (iii) targeted support from the United Nations system including the Bretton Wood institutions; (iv) engagement of parliaments in design, implementation, and review of IPoA; (v) partnerships with the private sector; (vi) involvement of civil society organizations; (vii) re-vamping international trade and finance architecture to make these supportive of and responsive to the special needs and priorities of the LDCs; and (viii) contribution of development initiatives at sub-regional, regional, and international levels (such as G-20 Seoul Development

Consensus for Shared Growth and its Multi-Year Action Plan) for the inclusive and sustainable growth of the LDCs.

### III. Priority Areas for Action

The IPoA has identified eight priority areas around which actions for the LDCs will be organized during the decade. These are:

- **Productive capacity:** infrastructure; energy; science, technology and innovation; private sector development
- **Agriculture, food security and rural development**
- **Trade**
- **Commodities**
- **Human and social development:** education and training; population and primary health; youth development; shelter; water and sanitation; gender equality, and empowerment of women; social protection
- **Multiple crises and other emerging challenges:** economic shocks; climate change and environmental sustainability; disaster risk reduction
- **Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building:** domestic resource mobilization; ODA; external debt; FDI; remittances
- **Good governance at all levels**

For each of these priority areas and their major constituents, IPoA specifies goals and targets that LDCs may pursue in accordance with their national development policies and strategies. The Plan of Action also charts out broad directions along which joint actions could be directed and individual actions by the LDCs and the development partners could be undertaken in order to achieve the goals and targets. Recognizing the crucial role of efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels for the successful implementation of the IPoA and ensure accountability of the LDCs and the development partners, a mutually complementary and reinforcing framework has also been suggested covering the three levels.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) with support from the Inter-agency Consultative Group (IACG) has developed a Road Map for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the IPoA at the global level. OHRLLS and IACG are also engaged in developing a set of indicators to monitor the goals and targets of the IPoA, the draft of which will be shared shortly.

## **IV. Regional Road Map for Implementing the IPoA**

### **A. Regional and Sub-regional Implementation Strategy for the Asia-Pacific Region**

The IPoA has placed particular importance to national level arrangements for its effective implementation since the Programme has to be owned and led by the LDCs. It is expected that each LDC government would integrate the provisions of the IPoA into its policies and development framework and conduct regular reviews on its implementation within a participatory framework. The development partners would also support objectives and policies on the basis of the IPoA that are integrated into national development and cooperation frameworks.

Growth of private enterprise and attracting new forms of FDI in LDCs has added a new dimension in effective development cooperation. This has significant promise to promote economic growth and reducing poverty and attaining MDGs. Also, attention needs to be paid to the precarious state of global food security, including food price volatility and inflation and its destabilizing impact on LDCs. This calls for bringing about increased international and regional cooperation in promoting a new form of agricultural revolution to meet this challenge. Developed countries should also facilitate transfer of technology to LDCs to stimulate a development pattern that is inclusive and sustainable.

The IPoA accords special priority to regional and sub-regional cooperation. It recognizes that the subregional and regional cooperation can play a critical role in promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in least developed countries, including through enhanced subregional and regional connectivity, both physical and institutional, and strengthened responses to threats and crises of various kinds. The importance of advancing and supporting subregional and regional cooperation efforts in favour of least developed countries should be stressed (Para 35).

Additionally, international community must galvanize global action in support of development needs of LDCs, whose progress would bring greater global growth and opportunities for all. Increase in south-south cooperation and south-south trade and investment flows has a positive impact on LDCs development processes. LDCs development partners should commit to further strengthening this partnership, which should be seen as a complement, and not a substitute, to north-south cooperation. In that context, countries, including LDCs development partners, should address bottlenecks in duty-free quota free scheme such as stringent rules of origin, complex procedures and supply side constraints to enable LDCs to have a greater share in global trade. Also, an early conclusion of Doha Development Round would allow meaningful integration of LDCs in the multilateral trading network. LDCs would benefit from creation of a debt sustainability framework to address systemic vulnerabilities and to build resilience in their economies.

The IPoA stresses that the efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels are crucial for the successful implementation of this Programme of Action. The IPoA decides that at the regional level, the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of

this Programme of Action in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations. The relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should continue to ensure that the needs and challenges of the least developed countries are addressed as part of their ongoing work (Para 149).

### ***Proposed Regional/Sub-regional Implementation Strategy***

This section provides the regional/sub-regional implementation strategy for the Asia-Pacific region for the eight priority areas of action identified in the IPoA, which is based on the premise that each Asia-Pacific LDC translate policies and programmes in the Istanbul Programme of Action into concrete measures by integrating the IPoA into their national and sectoral development strategies and plans. The Strategy is summarized in Table 1. The proposed regional/subregional partnership will assist the Asia-Pacific LDCs with different products and services such as knowledge and capacity development, resources, expertise, advocacy for the IPoA and regional cooperation in delivering public goods assisting the countries to follow country-specific courses of action. However, it will be vital to have the necessary financial, human and technical resources.

Table 1:

### **Regional/sub-regional Implementation Strategy for the Asia-Pacific LDCs**

<b>Priority areas</b>	<b>Strategy/Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Productive capacity</b>		
Infrastructure Energy Science, technology and innovation Private sector Development	-Provide enhanced financial and technical support; support transfer of skills, knowledge and technology; support private sector investment and public-private partnerships; assist landlocked and small-island LDCs to address challenges of remoteness. -Provide enhanced financial and technical support; support development of generation and distribution, energy efficiency, renewable energy; facilitate private sector investment; facilitate transfer of appropriate and affordable technology. -Provide enhanced financial and technical support; urge WTO members to implement Article 7 of 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration on Agreement on TRIPs and Public Health; provide concessional start-up financing for LDC firms investing in new technologies. -Operationalize paragraph 52 of the IPoA which calls for a "joint action on a priority basis by 2013 domestic technological gap and capacity analysis with the aim of establishing a Technology Bank and Science and Technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to least developed countries". - Develop a strategy for technical assistance for LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region in technology transfer through the "International Science, Technology and Innovation Center" to be established by the Government of Turkey, - Undertake national Science , Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) review in interested countries in the Asia-Pacific Region -Provide enhanced financial and technical	All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia-Pacific LDCs UNCTAD, ESCAP, UN-OHRLLS and other lead agencies identified in the working Group on Science and Technology

	<p>support and facilitate transfer of technology; with specialized support to women; support initiatives to strengthen institutional and managerial capacities and productivity of SMEs, including those in rural areas, to improve competitiveness and participate effectively in regional and global value chains; provide financial and technical support to LDCs for the purpose of promoting, attracting and facilitating development-oriented foreign direct investment; provide financial and technical support to policy makers and enterprises in LDCs to adopt and practice principles of corporate social responsibility, including those embodied in the global compact. Support to develop and implement specific interventions for rural women and other marginalized groups of women will be provided.</p>	<p>ESCAP, OHRLLS and LDCs</p>
<p><b>Agriculture, food and nutritional security, and rural development</b></p>	<p>-Provide enhanced financial and technical support; fulfill commitments made to achieve global food security and sustainable agricultural development; support increasing agricultural production and productivity; support efforts to establish/strengthen safety nets; provide resources to UN agencies to expand and enhance food assistance and safety nets; eliminate export subsidies and other export measures with equivalent effects; promote rural enterprise development through capacity building, networking and value chain integration; explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of (a regional) stockholding in dealing with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility (Para 60.I.b); and promote technologies for small farmers.</p>	<p>All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia-Pacific LDCs</p>



Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
<b>Trade</b>	<p>-Support promotion of regional and subregional trade and cooperation, export promotion, regional connectivity through trade enabling and facilitating measures; address non-tariff measures and eliminate unjustified non-tariff barriers while providing financial and technical assistance to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and other recognized requirements support LDCs' efforts to strengthen human, institutional and regulatory capacities in trade policies and trade negotiations; provide technical and financial support to projects aiming to increasing productivity, competitiveness and diversification of LDC economies and better integration into international value chains; reaffirm the WTO's provision of special and differential treatment to LDCs and ensure that non-reciprocal preferential rules of origin facilitate market access; implement effective trade-related technical assistance and capacity building measures including enhanced assistance for Aid for Trade and support for Enhanced Integrated Framework; provide incentives to enterprises for technology transfer to LDCs (Article 66.2 of TRIPs Agreement); and provide more resources for trade related capacity building. -Support national priorities to ensure gender perspectives are included in trade policies and agreements with special focus on; Women in Informal Cross Border Trade and migrant women.; - Supporting women traders' organizations to promote gender responsive trade regimes and aid for trade</p>	All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia-Pacific LDCs
<b>Commodities</b>	Assist to better mitigate/manage risks of volatility of commodity prices; support measures to enhance corporate transparency and accountability of all companies; support LDC initiatives to strengthen capacity to manage natural resources and diversify commodity base; support strengthening of effective marketing systems and frameworks for small commodity producers.	All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia Pacific LDCs

Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
<b>Human and social development</b>		
Education and training Population and primary health Youth development Shelter	<p>-Provide financial and technical support to implement national education plans and programmes; support efforts to exceed MDG targets in education; support efforts to train and retain teachers and trainers; support efforts to improve higher educational and technical and vocational education and training; encourage higher education institutes to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from LDCs. -Provide financial and technical support to strengthen national health and health financing systems; support LDC efforts to improve access to medicines and encourage transfer of technology; help implement WTO and related provisions providing flexibilities for the protection of public health and promote access to medicines for all; support LDC initiatives to develop capacity to systematically collect and analyze demographic data for national policies. -Provide financial and technical assistance to support policies and programmes creating economic opportunities and productive employment to youth; support formal and non-formal education systems for capacity building skill development of youth; promote youth exchange programmes. -Provide financial and technical support to improve access to land, housing and basic services; support development of capabilities and capacities of national and local governments and institutions; support technology transfer and provide financial and technical assistance for low cost housing.</p>	All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia-Pacific LDCs

Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Water and Sanitation	<p>-Provide financial and technical support to improve and expand water and sanitation provision; support efforts to provide services to the underserved; help preserve and develop water sources, water sheds and water productivity including through sub-regional and regional collaborations; support transfer of technology for water treatment and waste management.</p>	
Gender equality and empowerment of women	<p>-Provide financial and technical assistance to implement policies and programmes on gender equality and social inclusion including empowerment of women and girls in achieving the MDGs; support policies and programmes to enhance women's economic and income generating activities, productive employment and access to productive resources.</p> <p>-Create women friendly markets and multiservice facilities for women entrepreneurs and business owners to overcome the barriers they face.</p> <p>-Increase women's participation in leadership and decision making including in new and transitional governments.</p> <p>-Support women's participation in peace processes, post conflict reconstruction and recovery measures through: Building capacities of women to effectively engage in peace negotiations – including as mediators. Ensure integration of gender concerns in responses to financial, economic, food and environmental crises.</p>	
Social protection	<p>-Provide financial and technical support to develop and implement social protection policies framework and programmes especially for poor and disadvantaged groups; facilitate sharing of experience and best practices.</p>	

Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
<b>Multiple crises and other emerging challenges</b>		
Economic shocks	-Provide financial and technical support to risk mitigation strategies; provide increased concessional lending and grants through international financial institutions; adopt and implement policies and regulations to guide and make private sector responsible player.	All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia Pacific LDCs
Climate change and environmental sustainability Disaster risk reduction	-Provide adequate financial and technical assistance and support to access appropriate, affordable and sustainable technologies for implementation of NAPAs and NAMAs; facilitate access to required resources from different environment and climate funds including GEF; provide financial and technical assistance and facilitate technology transfer to develop and implement national strategies for sustainable use, preservation and protection of environmental resources, including saving mountains and sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems; operationalize the Green Climate Fund; promote and facilitate clean development mechanism projects; help address the challenges of livelihood and food insecurity and health due to adverse impact of climate change; support capacity enhancement of meteorological and hydrological services; build capacity of LDCs to produce, use and trade in climate-smart and environmentally friendly goods and services. -Provide financial and technical assistance to support disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and post-disaster reconstruction efforts and strengthen sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology transfer; support to strengthen capacity to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and benefit from regional and international early warning systems and information sharing mechanisms.	
<b>Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building</b>		
Domestic resource mobilization	-Support to build capacity to raise domestic resources through revenue generation and financial sector reforms; support development of an efficient, effective, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector and	All regional and international organizations including UN

Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Official development assistance	<p>productive capacity as well as development of capacity to benefit from private sector investments including public-private partnerships and venture capital operations.</p> <p>-All donor countries to make best efforts to meet commitment they made at the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs as soon as possible; review ODA commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing resources for LDCs; provide timely information on annual commitments and disbursements; use country system as the first option for aid programmes in support of activities managed by the public sector; align aid with national priorities and strengthen capacity development, enhance quality of aid; improve donor coordination and harmonization; continue to make progress on untying of aid, align aid allocation with country priorities with particular focus on productive capacity development; explore new innovative finance mechanisms to supplement traditional sources of finance;</p>	system regional banks, Asia-Pacific LDCs and their development partners
External debt	<p>-Provide financing for HIPC Initiative and MDRI; strive to ensure resources for debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and MDRI do not detract from ODA resources intended to be available for LDCs, further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed transparent, and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments and innovative mechanisms such as debt swaps; consider taking additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based and other forms of concessional financing adopt coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate.</p>	

Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
Foreign direct Investment Remittances	<p>-Set up and strengthen as appropriate initiatives to support investment in LDCs such as insurance, guarantees and preferential financing programmes and private enterprise funds for investment in LDCs; support capacity building aimed at improving abilities to attract FDI; support and implement initiatives aimed at encouraging investment such as export credits, risk management tools, co-financing, venture capital and other leading instruments, business development services, and feasibility studies; strengthen partnership programmes for technology transfer under mutually agreed terms by fostering linkages between foreign and domestic firms. - Resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers and the imposition of unreasonable restrictions on labour migration; consider developing, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic laws, a system of short-term migration; remove unnecessary restrictions on outward remittances and support lowering of transaction costs; and assist formulation of strategies for productive use of remittances</p>	
<b>Good governance at all levels</b>	<p>-Support efforts to develop human and institutional capacities for good governance; support strengthening national statistical capacity for effective monitoring of IPoA; promote policy coherence and coordination of international financial, trade and development institutions, processes and mechanisms; establish governance and accountability action plans; support strengthened and effective voice and participation of LDCs in international dialogue and action on development and in decision and rule making and standard and norm setting in all areas affecting their development; ratify/accede UN Convention against Corruption and</p>	All regional and international organizations including UN system; Asia-Pacific LDCs

Priority areas	Strategy/Action	Responsibility
	<p>implement appropriate anti-corruption laws and regulations; support efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for preventing corruption, bribery, money laundering, illegal transfer of funds, and other illegal activities by public and private entities; provide assistance to help prevention and resolution of conflict; strengthen support to conflict-affected LDCs to address country-specific needs and situations; harmonize and align assistance with national priorities of LDCs affected by conflict. Sex disaggregated data and Gender responsive planning and budgets for gender responsive policy formulation.</p> <p>-National development plans should incorporate GE-WE as a key pillar. Building capacities to integrate gender equality priorities and targets in national development plans and budgets.</p> <p>-Strengthen focus and attention of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women by; -Developing tools and mechanisms that effectively measure the resources allocated to gender equality – to be used by both multi-lateral development agencies and national governments.</p>	

### *Priority Country-Specific Actions for Asia-Pacific LDCs*

The Asia-Pacific LDCs vary significantly in terms of their physical environments and socio-economic characteristics. The size of population, for instance, varies from a few thousands in the small island states of the Pacific to more than 150 million in Bangladesh. The nature of their problems also differs widely along with potentials and development options. It is important therefore to highlight country-specific strategies and actions within the framework of IPoA. This is necessary since, despite similarities in the overall status of development, the nature and degree of the constraints facing each country are different and these need country-specific actions. Moreover, although the nature of actions may be similar, their relative priority may be different in view of the country realities. It may be mentioned here that most of the relevant actions are more likely to be covered within the development frameworks of these countries as reflected in their plan/strategy documents but the need would be to re-prioritize, adjust and sharpen the actions in the light of the agreed IPoA commitments.

## **B. Deliverables under the Regional Road Map for Implementing the IPoA**

Within the mutually agreed compact between the LDCs and the development partners, the IPoA contains eight priority areas of action, each having concrete commitments and deliverables. The overarching emphasis is on equity at all levels through empowering the poor and marginalized groups and ensuring sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development supported by democracy, social justice, and gender equality.

The key challenge for the Asia-Pacific LDCs is to ensure that concrete actions are in place at national, regional/sub-regional and international levels for realizing the commitments and the deliverables in a comprehensive manner. In this context, designing a road map may facilitate a quick transition of both the Asia-Pacific LDCs and their development partners towards a path of coordinated and effective implementation of the IPoA.

The deliverables under the regional road map, given in Table 2, have been designed to provide an account of the possible institutions/agencies<sup>2</sup> that will have to take the lead to ensure proper implementation of the IPoA in the Asia-Pacific region, relevant objectives with which the actions should be guided, and substantial actions that are required to deliver the expected outcomes. It needs to be acknowledged that the number of institutions/agencies that should collaborate is necessarily large in view of the comprehensive nature of the Istanbul Programme and covers the UN system and other international organizations, intergovernmental and regional organizations, global partnerships, donor agencies, multi-stakeholder engagements, and South-South partnerships.

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<sup>2</sup> It must be emphasized here that none of the UN Organizations, funds and programmes and the global and regional development financial institutions mentioned in Table 2 have been consulted in framing their respective contribution in implementing the IPoA. This draft and suggested scheme is based on their existing mandates and the support they have been providing to the LDCs. Once the draft regional road map is generally endorsed by the LDCs, it is intended that more formal consultation will be initiated with them.



Table 2:  
**Deliverables under the Regional Road Map for Implementing IPoA  
 in Asia and the Pacific region**

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
<b>Global/Regional</b>			
Promote regional consensus building in support of implementation of IPoA	<p>- Undertake measures to mainstream IPoA into the work programmes of all relevant organizations; establish regular and periodic review mechanisms for monitoring progress of IPoA implementation at regional and sub-regional levels; prepare status reports, deliverables, review reports to highlight progress and challenges - Strengthen cooperation with LDCs on implementation of IPoA -Ensure (e.g. by signing MOU with UNDP) that all UN organizations support national level mainstreaming and implementation of IPoA along with active engagement of country coordination mechanisms (e.g. UNDAF). - Formulate (if necessary) a detailed project proposal on national level mainstreaming of IPoA. This should help identify ways to mainstream IPoA into national development plans and strategies of each LDC and how the UN country team can contribute effectively to the process. - Organize regional/sub-regional workshops with national focal points and capacity building</p>	Dec 2011- Dec 2012	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; UN country teams and Asia-Pacific LDCs

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
	workshops in LDCs to disseminate the outcomes of the project and provide support in mainstreaming IPoA into national development plans and strategies.		
Mobilize resources for implementing IPoA	- Develop a regional strategy for mobilizing adequate resources for implementing IPoA based on resource requirements and impacts thereof; explore options to mobilize required additional fund through various options e.g. setting up a Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Asia-Pacific LDCs.	Dec 2011- Jun 2012	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; Asia-Pacific LDCs
Create greater regional awareness and advocacy regarding IPoA	- Develop advocacy and outreach strategy in consultation with the LDCs and initiate its implementation with support from LDCs and development partners	Dec 2011- June 2012	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; Asia-Pacific LDCs
Undertake regular follow up, monitoring and review of implementation of IPoA	- Prepare a country-specific list of deliverables by LDCs and suggest indicators for monitoring in cooperation with LDCs; publish annual regional/sub-regional reports on progress of implementation; mid-term review reports; and other reports. - Specify, in collaboration with Asia-Pacific LDCs, develop indicators for monitoring, follow-up and review of IPoA including by the Commission's Special Body on the LDCs and LLDCs.	Dec 2011- Dec 2012	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; Asia-Pacific LDCs
Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the regional level for the successful	-As part of its annual sessions, UN ESCAP to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action in close collaboration with the global-level	2013, 2015, 2017, 2019	UN-ESCAP, UN-OHRLLS, Regional and Sub-regional inter

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
implementation of this Programme of Action.	and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations		governmental organizations, LDCs and their development partners (including donors, countries of the South, parliaments, private sector, civil society and foundations)
Mainstream IPoA into development cooperation strategies of development partners including UN and other international agencies, regional/subregional organizations, and specialized agencies	- Encourage development partners to fulfill their commitment of mainstreaming IPoA into their development cooperation strategies with LDCs and support effective implementation of IPoA - Strengthen cooperation between OHRLLS and international, regional and sub-regional organizations on implementation of IPoA - Engage with regional consultative processes to highlight IPoA in the deliberations and actions	Dec 2011- Dec 2016	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; Asia-Pacific LDCs
- Develop a strategy for mainstreaming trade into national development policies and strategies including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)	-Undertake national case studies in selected LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region; -Organize training workshop on capacity building in the areas of trade related policy formulation -Organize a dissemination workshop for Asia-Pacific region on UNCTAD's annual Least Developed Countries Report series following publication of	2012-2015	UNCTAD, ESCAP and EIF core agencies

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
<p>-Identify countries from the Asia-Pacific region with a potential to meet the graduation criteria by 2020 through systematic tracking of progress and by providing "smooth transition" strategy</p>	<p>such reports -Analyze as to where selected countries in the region stand now in relation with meeting the graduation threshold; -Identify challenges and opportunities for graduation including through vulnerability analysis; - Prepare policy recommendations for action at the regional and global levels;</p>	<p>First quarter of 2012 - 2015/ one or two countries per year</p>	<p>UNCTAD, ESCAP, UNOHRLLS and DESA</p>
<p>Identify substantive measures to enhance contribution of UN system and other international/regional organizations in implementation of IPoA</p>	<p>- Support the possibility of setting up a Technology Bank for the Asia-Pacific LDCs and develop more effective mechanisms for science, technology and innovation transfer to these countries including through South-South cooperation frameworks - Contribute to the development of frameworks for supporting Aid for Investment for Asia-Pacific LDCs including concessional startup finance and investment preference regimes -Suggest ways to operationalize country-specific Social Protection Floor for Asia-Pacific LDCs - Identify specific actions for substantiating commitments in areas of aid, FDI, remittances, domestic resource mobilization, human and social development for the Asia-Pacific LDCs</p>	<p>Dec 2011- Dec 2016</p>	<p>UNESCAP's support to OHRLLS and other regional inter-governmental entities</p>

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
	<p>- Work with relevant organizations to substantiate commitments related to agriculture, food security, and rural development; and crisis mitigation and resilience building including support to Asia-Pacific LDCs' risk mitigation strategies, facilitate their access to required resources from different environment and climate funds, and accelerate establishment of Green Climate Fund - Build partnership with relevant organizations to roll out the trade related commitments of IPoA</p>		
Promote complementary role of South-South cooperation in implementing IPoA	<p>- Identify areas specify modalities for South-South cooperation in consultation with Asia-Pacific LDCs and countries of the South</p>	Dec 2011- Dec 2016	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; Asia-Pacific LDCs
Promote contribution of parliaments to implementation of IPoA	<p>- Explore ways of support by parliaments e.g. assisting parliamentary structures and capacity building, raising parliamentary awareness regarding IPoA, undertaking advocacy work, and other means</p>	Dec 2011- Dec 2016	UNESCAP and OHRLLS; IPU; Asia-Pacific LDCs
Promote contribution of the private sector to implementation of IPoA	<p>- organize multi-stakeholder dialogue forums including business and government. Existing platforms, such as ESCAP Business Advisory Council and Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2012 can also be used for this purpose</p>	Dec 2011- Dec 2016	UNESCAP; Asia-Pacific LDCs, Asia-Pacific members of the Private Sector Steering Committee;

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
<b>National</b>			
Mainstream IPoA into national development plans and strategies	- Adopt measures, with necessary support from concerned regional/sub-regional organizations, to mainstream IPoA into national development frameworks (five year plans, poverty reduction strategy papers, strategy/policy documents) and align strategies/policies/ programmes (as necessary) to ensure effective implementation of IPoA and realize its goals.	Dec 2011- Dec 2016	National governments of Asia-Pacific LDCs
Ensure effective implementation of national strategies and programmes in line and consistent with the priorities of IPoA	- Develop implementation strategy and adopt required institutional reforms for the implementation machineries - Adopt strong anti-corruption strategy and improve public administration capacity - Operationalize solid monitoring and evaluation systems	Jun 2012- Jun 2016	National governments of Asia-Pacific LDCs
Promote private sector's contribution to implementation of IPoA	- Undertake discussions for raising awareness on IPoA and identifying possible ways of contribution - Develop platforms (e.g. Business Advisory Council, national-level multi-stakeholder dialogues) to ensure continued engagement of private sector in implementation, follow up, monitoring and review of IPoA	Dec 2011- Jun 2016	National governments of Asia-Pacific LDCs
Promote civil society's awareness and contribution to implementation of IPoA	- Develop and adopt advocacy and outreach strategy for IPoA -Engage civil society using different options (e.g establish Civil Society Advisory Committee) in implementation, monitoring and follow up of IPoA - Organize regular discussion meetings and work jointly to implement strategies and programmes of IPoA	Dec 2011- Jun 2016	National governments of Asia-Pacific LDCs; CSO Advisory Caucus

The deliverables under the road map (Table 2) envisages several broad categories of products and services from the global/regional level for the Asia-Pacific LDCs. It is expected that the regional partners can achieve significant economies of scale in building up knowledge and information. Knowledge generation can take a number of forms including yearly assessments of progress achieved by the Asia-Pacific LDCs in terms of major targets set in the IPoA; issues related to achieving the IPoA goals; creating new knowledge affecting goal outcomes; developing evidence-based policy options; estimating resource requirements; and identifying key areas and sectors for public-private-donor investments. For success in achieving the IPoA goal of graduation, different partners need to play their designated roles. However, in order to avoid the process becoming fragmented, uncoordinated and less effective, there is a need to ensure institutionalized interaction and dialogue among the relevant partners. The relevant organizations including UN-ESCAP have considerable experience in the arena of exchange of information on ‘best practices’ and sharing of knowledge and expertise. Another important partner in advocacy will be the media. For interactions, the aim would be raising public awareness so as to build and sustain public support for the IPoA and create opportunities and space for the emergence of new forms of organization and alliances in support of graduation.

Regional cooperation is also vital for the provision of regional public goods. Those that have a direct impact on the IPoA include cross-border infrastructure projects in transport, energy, water and environment, framework agreements in regional and sub-regional trade and transit infrastructure, as well as modalities for dealing with such cross-border issues as environmental pollution, natural disasters, and communicable diseases which have strong externalities and need to be addressed collectively.

Table 2 also summarizes the deliverables and timelines for implementing the road map. It lists several activities, encompassing a wide variety of activities which needs further concretization based on needs assessment and the consultative process, and intensive inter-agency consultation and discussions. The need will also be to involve all the UN organizations, agencies, funds and programmes and the Asian Development Bank in implementing these activities, either individually or in partnership with others. The UNCTS will be invited to participate in further defining and executing these activities. The above should, however, be treated as a ‘rolling programme’ that needs to be revised in the light of experience, and some of the activities that are on-going may be further developed as part of the implementation process.

### **C. Monitoring and Follow-Up of IPoA**

The success of the road map will depend ultimately on the commitment of the regional organizations and entities in pooling their resources and expertise. To do so effectively they will require specific plans, milestones and timelines, and systems for evaluating the outcome. To ensure effective implementation of the commitments, IPoA underscores the importance of effective monitoring, follow-up and review mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels. Central to these, however, is to adopt a set of indicators that are reliable, comparable across time and countries, and easy to collect and interpret.

Indicators reflecting these features are essential in assessing the degree with which actions taken by the Asia-Pacific LDCs and their development partners match their respective commitments needed for promoting mutual accountability. Such mechanisms also help identify constraints and shortcomings and provide feedback to the LDCs and their development partners, enabling both parties to formulate and implement necessary corrective measures. Besides, these indicators are also needed to gauge the effectiveness of their actions. The indicators also help document whether and to what extent implemented actions are able to make progress in achieving the expected outcomes and targets set in IPoA. The framework that should guide the choice of such indicators is the input-process-output-impact approach, which features three main categories of indicators: input indicators (related to actions), process indicators (related to transformation of inputs), and output/impact indicators (related to results and objectives respectively).

Some of these indicators have already been defined and identified for a number of goals and targets of IPoA as well as the MDGs, particularly for those related to human and social development. However, such indicators for remaining priority areas need to be specified and agreed. A set of the proposed indicators for monitoring progress of implementation of IPoA is being prepared by OHRLLS with support from the IACG. However, a process of continuous review needs to be institutionalized so that these indicators can be used on comprehensive and consistent basis.

#### **D. Summary and Conclusions**

The greatest challenge facing the Asia-Pacific LDCs is to promote inclusive and sustainable growth for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life of the people. In these countries, such growth requires measures both to accelerate growth and strengthen social protection along with a focus on agriculture and rural development and enhanced financial inclusiveness. The persistence of low level of per capita incomes in the Asia-Pacific LDCs results in a vicious circle where large infrastructure investments remain economically unviable due to low demand for certain infrastructure services while inadequate infrastructure constrains economic activities in others resulting in, among others, low revenue generation for investment in social sectors to achieve the MDGs.

The Asia-Pacific LDCs successfully weathered the recent global economic crisis for which prudent and timely national policies emphasizing short term responses to the external shocks played an important role. For sustaining the growth momentum, these countries need to find new sources of growth to deepen their dynamism mainly through rebalancing their economies in favour of greater domestic and regional consumption. More specifically, the LDCs need to focus on several major imbalances that characterize the process of their economic growth.