

**Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator’ Speech on
“Building Synergy and Coherence in national and
international policies for implementation and follow-
up of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030
Sustainable Development Agenda”**

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Protocol.

**It is a pleasure to join you today to discuss the implementation of
the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) and the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development, and the synergies that can be built
between these two important development agendas.**

**2015 was a landmark year for global development. UN Member
States reached historic agreements and set global agendas which will
guide development priorities for a generation to come. These
include: Agenda 2030 on sustainable development; the Sendai
Framework for disaster risk reduction; the Addis Ababa Action
Agenda on financing for development; and the Paris Agreement on
climate change.**

These Agreements are all highly relevant for LDCs, and reflect the development opportunities and challenges they face. Implementation of these Agreements and other previous international commitments and programmes, including the *Istanbul Programme of Action* would enable LDCs to accelerate their development and their graduation from LDC status.

During the period of the Millennium Development Goals there was significant progress in the LDCs on lifting people out of poverty, and reaching major milestones in education, health, and other areas. The latest global Human Development Report notes that LDCs as a group are making the fastest progress in human development. Between 2000 and 2014, the average Human Development Index value for LDCs increased by 26 per cent, compared to the average increase globally of 11 per cent. This progress increases the likelihood of graduation from LDC status sooner rather than later.

Indeed by March last year, ten more countries¹ had been suggested for.² Four countries³ had already graduated by 2014. Furthermore, a significant number of LDCs⁴ have expressed their desire to graduate by 2020, and are integrating targeted action plans to that end in their national development agendas. These emphasize the urgency to step up our support.

The *Istanbul Programme of Action 2011-2020* and *Agenda 2030* are both long-term agendas based on principles of inclusive and sustainable development. Their common priority areas include developing productive capacity covering infrastructure, industrialization, and energy; building on social and human development, including through improved health status and quality education; increasing resilience to external shocks; and strengthening institutions and governance.

¹ Angola, Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

² Advanced Unedited Version of the Report of the SG on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2011-2020. Paragraphs 68 and 69.

³ Botswana, Cabo Verde, Maldives and Samoa.

⁴ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal.

Implementation of the two agendas also follows similar approaches, including by promoting the importance of building new and existing partnerships, technology transfer, support for capacity building, and improving data collection and accountability for better monitoring of results.

Working along these lines, greater international support can be mobilized for LDCs to enable them to achieve the objectives of both the *Istanbul Programme of Action* and Agenda 2030. LDCs will benefit from consolidating financial and technical resources around advancing progress on both agendas, and building common data platforms and monitoring mechanisms for the attainment of both. Harmonized reporting systems for the two agendas would reduce the transaction costs of preparing multiple reports. That would help ensure that public sector capacity can focus on implementation.

Supporting LDCs on graduation and on the implementation of Agenda 2030 lies at the heart of UNDP's mandate and work. Seventy four per cent of UNDP's core programme resources is for work in LDCs.

High on our agenda was first the mainstreaming of the *Istanbul Programme of Action* into national development plans, and now the same process is underway for the SDGs. In Laos, for example, UNDP has been supporting the elaboration of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan centered on both LDC graduation and mainstreaming the SDGs. In Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, and Nepal, UNDP is supporting the national ambitions to graduate around 2020. In Bhutan and Myanmar, we are working to strengthen statistical systems, data collection, and monitoring for the implementation of both the *Istanbul Programme of Action* and the SDGs.

The UN Development Group has a whole is rolling out its Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) framework. It is aimed at supporting countries, at national request, to adapt the SDGs to national and local contexts, target efforts on priority areas, and provide strategic policy support. This analytical tool and methodology can bring much needed coherence between internationally agreed frameworks for development.

Meeting the special needs of LDCs will require continued strong national leadership, dedicated support from national and international partners, and mobilizing sufficient resources. If we all commit to play our part, then there are greater opportunities for LDCs to graduate in the near term, and to make progress on achieving the sustainable development goals.

I hope this discussion will generate constructive ideas and dialogue for how we can collectively build on the synergies between the *Istanbul Programme of Action* and Agenda 2030.