

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 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the past and currently the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IPoA was adopted by the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-IV) held in Turkey in 2011.

LDC Watch strives to go beyond the IPoA in addressing poverty, hunger, social injustices and human rights in the LDCs. LDC Watch, therefore, 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).

BRUSSELS TO ISTANBUL

LDC Watch evolved out of the NGO Forum process that was held in parallel to the Third UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-III) in Brussels in 2001. By the end



of the decade, LDC Watch firmly established its position as the foremost representative of LDC civil society. The Office of the UN Secretary-General mandated LDC Watch, as its civil society partner, to globally coordinate the civil society track towards and at the LDC-IV, which culminated with a parallel Civil Society Forum. The Civil Society Forum Declaration is acknowledged in Paragraph 17 of the Istanbul Political Declaration.

At present, it has been continuing its policy advocacy and campaigns towards monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the IPoA as well as defending the interests of LDCs mainly in international trade, climate change food sovereignty and implementation of SDGs.

VISION

LDC Watch envisions a world without LDCs - fully enjoying justice, dignity, peace and human rights.

MISSION

LDC Watch aims to draw on the strength, expertise and commitment of LDC civil society to engage with their governments and the international community towards effective implementation of the IPoA including other IADGs such as the SDGs.

OBJECTIVES

- To increase awareness on the IPoA and its implementation, with LDC and global civil society, parliamentarians, LDC governments and development partners, the UN system, international organisations, multi-lateral institutions and the media, as relevant stakeholders.
 - To enhance the capacity of LDC civil society to effectively advocate, campaign and network with relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the IPoA.
 - To promote increased attention and delivery of the specific commitments
- to LDCs in the global development processes and other IADGs, such as the SDGs, the Financing for Development (FfD), the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), South-South Cooperation, the UNFCCC and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
 - To build and expand the LDC Watch network as a stronger representative of LDC civil society.
 - To enhance alliance-building and networking with global civil society, in the South and the North, for effective advocacy and campaigns towards LDC-specific global commitments.



KEY ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS OF LDC WATCH

- Towards a World without LDCs: IPoA and Graduation
- No SDGs without addressing LDCs!
- Climate Justice for LDCs
- Fair Trade NOT Free Trade
- Food Sovereignty for LDCs
- Full and Unconditional Cancellation of LDC Debt

LDC WATCH ALLIANCES AND PARTNERS

LDC Watch aims to enhance alliance-building and networking with global civil society, in the South and the North, for effective advocacy and campaigns towards LDC-specific global commitments. Key partners include the South Asia Alliance on Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), People's SAARC, Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Our World is Not For Sale (OWINFS) network, Social Watch, Third World Network (TWN), Friends of the Earth, Reality of Aid and the media partner of LDC Watch, the LDC News Service.

LDC WATCH GOVERNANCE

LDC Watch is led and coordinated by an Executive Board, comprising of five to seven members, including President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected by the General Assembly of the Effective members. Effective members are elected/ nominated by National Focal Points (NFPs). LDC Watch has a National Focal Point in every least developed country. All NFPs are naturally associate members of LDC Watch. The network is coordinated by an International Secretariat with support from the European Coordination Office. The International Secretariat is hosted by Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) in Kathmandu, Nepal while the European Co-ordination office is located in Brussels, Belgium.

HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF LDC WATCH?

LDC Watch has national focal points in LDCs to co-ordinate and expand the constituency at the national level. You and your organisation can be a part of LDC Watch by reaching out to the national focal points, listed on the website: www.ldcwatch.org.



Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020

8 PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

A. Productive capacity

- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Science, technology and innovation
- Private sector development

B. Agriculture, food security and rural development

C. Trade

D. Commodities

E. Human and social development

- Education and training
- Population and primary health
- Youth development
- Shelter
- Water and sanitation
- Gender equality and empowerment of women

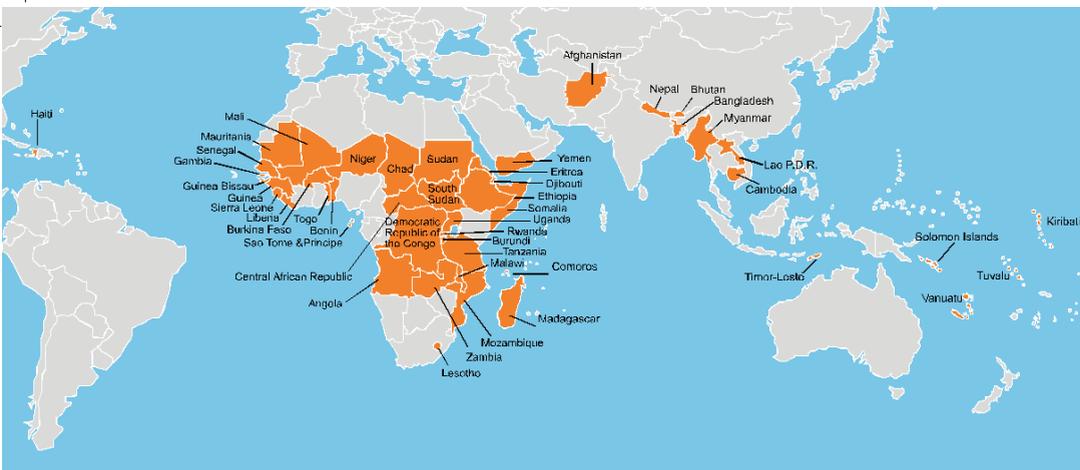
F. Multiple crises and other emerging challenges

- Economic shocks
- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Disaster Risk Reduction

G. Mobilising financial resources for development and capacity-building

- Domestic Resource Mobilisation
- Official Development Assistance
- External debt
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Remittances

H. Good governance at all levels



LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) AND YEAR OF INCLUSION

In Africa:

Angola (1994)
Benin (1971)
Burkina Faso (1971)
Burundi (1971)
Central African Republic (1975)
Chad (1971)
Comoros (1977)
Dem. Rep of the Congo (1991)
Djibouti (1982)
Eritrea (1994)
Ethiopia (1971)
Gambia (1975)
Guinea (1971)
Guinea-Bissau (1981)
Lesotho (1971)
Liberia (1990)
Madagascar (1991)
Malawi (1971)

In Africa:

Mali (1971)
Mauritania (1986)
Mozambique (1988)
Niger (1971)
Rwanda (1971)
Sao Tome and Principe (1982)
Senegal (2000)
Sierra Leone (1982)
Somalia (1971)
South Sudan (2012)
Sudan (1971)
Togo (1982)
Uganda (1971)
United Rep. of Tanzania (1971)
Zambia (1991)

In Asia:

Afghanistan (1971)
Bangladesh (1975)
Bhutan (1971)

In Asia:

Cambodia (1991)
Lao People's Dem. Republic (1971)
Myanmar (1987)
Nepal (1971)
Timor-Leste (2003)
Yemen (1971)

In the Caribbean:

Haiti (1971)

In the Pacific Region:

Kiribati (1986)
Solomon Islands (1991)
Tuvalu (1986)
Vanuatu (1985)

The five countries to have graduated out of the LDC category up to 2017 are Botswana, Cape Verde, Maldives, Samoa and Equatorial Guinea. According to 2015 triennial review conducted by Committee for Development Policy, three countries (Equatorial Guinea, Vanuatu and Tuvalu) were recommended for graduation out of which Equatorial Guinea graduated in 2017, two countries (Angola and Kiribati) met graduation criteria for the second consecutive time, while five LDCs met graduation criteria for the first time (Timor-Leste, Bhutan, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, and Nepal).

LDC WATCH COMMON MINIMUM PRINCIPLES

Organisations in the LDC Watch Network subscribe to the following common minimum principles:

1. Civil Society Organisations represent the voice of the people, and it is crucial that they be provided with adequate space to engage with their governments, UN Agencies and the international community towards building pro-poor, gender-friendly and inclusive policies for achieving sustainable development goals.
2. There should be collaborations among governments, UN agencies, development partners along with CSOs for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs). The IPoA was constructed specifically for LDCs and the Sustainable development goals are comprehensive and inclusive in nature. Therefore the IPoA and the SDGs should be implemented in a coordinated and integrated way
3. Least Developed Countries' governments should focus on sustainable graduation from LDC criteria and formulate necessary strategic planning for a smooth transition to the middle income countries. Graduation is not a winning post, but must be accepted as the first milestone in the marathon of the sustainable development of LDCs.
4. We demand total and unconditional cancellation of all unjust and illegitimate debts of LDCs.
5. We oppose unjust and unfair climate agreements as LDCs are not only least responsible for it but also suffer its worst impacts.
6. We demand climate justice for LDCs. They must be equally represented on global policy making space and their voices should be heard by the international community.
7. People, communities in LDCs have the right to define their own agricultural, labour, fishing, food and land policies which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances.
8. There is a greater need for strong North- South, South- South and triangular Cooperation and Alliance based on building and consolidating regional and sub-regional solidarity to make the world free of poverty, hunger and unfair economic relations between countries and regions.
9. SDGs will be a distant dream unless the international community address the pressing issues and concerns of LDCs in a systematic way with an active participation of people and the governments of LDCs.
10. All the states of the world must respect and protect human rights and fulfill their obligations without any prejudices.



Fighting for justice, peace and human rights of the LDCs

LDC Watch

A Global Network of Civil Society Organisations in the UN-defined Least Developed Countries (LDCs)



International Secretariat

P.O.Box: 8130, 288 Gairidhara Marg,
Gairidhara, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977 1 4004985, 4004507, 4004976
Fax: +977 1 4004508
E-mail: ldcwatch@ldcwatch.org
www.ldcwatch.org

European Co-ordination Office

Rue Stevin 115, B-1000
Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 231 1659
Fax: +322 230 3780