



**United Nations Industrial
Development Organization**

**6th UNIDO LDC Ministerial 2015
26 Nov - 27Nov 2015**

Vienna,

Ministerial Declaration:

Operationalizing ISID for LDCs: “the path to graduation and beyond”

Vienna, 27 November 2015

We, the Ministers of Industry, Ministers of Economy and/or Finance and Heads of Delegation, participating in the sixth UNIDO Ministerial Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Gathered here in Vienna, Austria, from 26 November to 27 November 2015, in order to provide strategic guidance for the effective implementation of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) for the least developed countries within the framework of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Union Agenda 2063 “The Africa we want”,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the principles set out in resolution 70/1 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventieth session entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its recognition of the shared responsibility for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership,

Emphasizing the importance of the outcomes of all recent major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environment and related fields, including the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and the five previous LDC Ministerial conferences organized by UNIDO and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), as well as ministerial meetings organized by LDCs with the support of OHRLLS in Cotonou, Kathmandu and Milan,

Emphasizing also the importance of the expected outcome of the 21st session of the conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris on 30 November 2015 as outlined in the decision 1 CP.17, especially in enhancing the adaptive capacity of the LDCs to climate change impacts,

Recalling the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action to overcome the structural constraints and challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries in order to eradicate

poverty, achieve the recently internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enable graduation from the status of least developed countries.

Recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and that manufacturing is a dynamic force in fostering sustainable development.

Reiterating that the development potential of LDCs can be unlocked by an effective operational strategy to foster ISID, with an emphasis on creating income and employment opportunities for all and enhancing earnings from manufacturing both for domestic and export markets;

Acknowledging the interlinkages between inclusive and sustainable industrial development and trade; and the need for industrial and trade policies to be aligned to help LDCs diversify their production and export base;

Reaffirming that all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, should take the bold steps that are urgently needed to accelerate the path to graduation of LDCs and pledge that no one will be left behind in this process as reiterated in the Lima Declaration;

Taking note of UNIDO's major achievements in support of LDCs following four years of implementation of its LDC Operational Strategy and two years after the endorsement of the UNIDO Lima Declaration;

Taking note also of the work achieved by OHRLLS in facilitating a coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the IPoA as well as the work of all related United Nations bodies in this regard;

Declare that:

1. The LDC path to graduation requires an enhanced focus on inclusive and sustainable industrial development through manufacturing, serving as a dynamic force for structural transformation and economic diversification within the framework of the SDG targets in general and Goal-9 in particular;
2. The envisaged GDP growth rate of 7 per cent per annum in LDCs, as stated in SDG target 8.1, should be led by productive sector-driven growth, as opposed to dependence on commodity-led growth, converting resource-based comparative advantages into competitiveness and commodities into value added products;
3. Building resilient infrastructure, energy for productive purposes and fostering innovation through the effective transfer of technology including technology banks are critical for accelerating the pace of industrial expansion on the path to graduation; In this regard, the role of agencies, such as UNCDF, should be stressed and supported by all stakeholders.
4. In light of the new industrial realities triggered partly by technological change, the path to graduation will entail an enhanced focus on value addition, investments in human capital through knowledge, skills development, innovation, commercializing new knowledge and the identification of viable approaches for the adoption of best practices;

5. That particular challenges faced by some least developed countries in post conflict situations and their human, economic and social implications need to be recognized and their stability enhanced to achieve sustainable development.
6. As emphasized in the Kathmandu and Milan Declaration, graduation should be regarded as a means to achieve structural change, poverty eradication and economic diversification in the country and thereby contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals;
7. Incorporating ISID into national economic policies, development plans and programmes will assist in the achievement of both the IPoA and Goal-9, and add to national ownership and leadership through the creation of the required industrial policy space and institutional direction;
8. And request UNIDO to expand its pilot Partnership Country Programmes initiated in Senegal and Ethiopia to other LDCs in all regions taking into account lessons learnt and best practices.
9. National development efforts need to be supported by a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development in a mutually beneficial win-win scenario at the global and regional levels to achieve the priorities cited in the IPoA, and through the forging of viable partnerships, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;
10. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, duly endorsed by the General Assembly, is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;
11. In the spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, Official Development Assistance (ODA) is essential for achieving the aspirations of the LDCs and in this regard, we pledge to initiate the necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of concrete inclusive and sustainable industrial development activities;
12. The collaboration between UNIDO and the WTO as well as other trade-related agencies towards helping LDCs on their path to graduation should be strengthened, particularly by intensifying trade-related technical assistance and capacity building activities that will facilitate the implementation of the trade-related objectives and actions of the IPoA and the SDGs through mechanisms under the Aid For Trade Initiative including the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF);
13. The high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action will be comprehensive and highlight best practices and lessons learned. The midterm review will also identify obstacles and constraints encountered and propose actions and initiatives needed to overcome them building on the decisions contained, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, we call upon all Member States and invite the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional finance institutions to actively participate in the midterm review, at the highest level possible, as well as in its preparatory processes;
14. As a follow-up to the UNIDO Ministerial Conference on Least Developed Countries 2015, we call upon all partners to ensure adequate financing for the development and implementation of country-specific and regional operational strategies and policy interventions, aimed at unlocking the potential of LDCs to graduate.

[Adopted in Vienna, Austria, on 27 November 2015]