



**Chief Executives Board
for Coordination
First Regular Session 2011**

19 May 2011

**CEB Statement to the
Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs**

We, the Chief Executives of organizations of the United Nations system, attach the highest importance to the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs (UNLDC IV) to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9-13 May 2011. It is essential that the international community achieves a strong outcome, which will positively affect the lives of 880 million people in the 48 poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world.

Many LDCs have made remarkable progress in accelerating their economic growth rates, achieving universal primary education and improving the political representation of women, with the support of the international community. The implementation of the three Programmes of Action over the last three decades has contributed to these achievements. However, LDCs are still confronted with the most daunting development challenges-- persistent structural vulnerabilities and handicaps owing to continued reliance on a few primary products, commodities and activities, as well as rapid population growth rates combined with high unemployment, particularly among the youth; vulnerability to extreme events; relatively slow progress in human development, reflected in persistent extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and limited access to basic services, particularly among the most excluded and marginalized groups; and continued weaknesses in governance capacities. LDCs are also most adversely affected by the negative impact of the economic, financial, food and energy crises and other exogenous shocks.

A concerted intensification and scaling up of efforts on the part of LDCs and their development partners is needed if these countries are to enter a path of sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development that would help them to graduate from LDC status. In addressing jointly the varied needs and specific vulnerabilities of this group of countries, special emphasis must be given to reducing disparities and promoting equity within and among countries. An ambitious, focused, actionable and result-oriented Programme of Action supported by the entire international community, and building on the commendable efforts to address the long-standing challenges faced by LDCs, is key to this. The United Nations System will draw on that experience to deepen the effectiveness of, and synergies among, our organizations' activities, as we continue to give priority to the special needs of LDCs and to supporting their development priorities through targeted programmes and dedicated resources and facilities.

The LDCs themselves have identified building infrastructure and a critical mass of competitive, diversified and jobs-and-enterprise-creating productive capacity as a defining challenge and opportunity for sustainable development in the next decade. They have also

expressed their growing needs in a broad range of areas, including: ensuring universal access to essential services; enhancing social protection systems; advancing human rights and the rule of law; prioritizing human and social development, particularly through the achievement of MDGs; strengthening education and vocational training; empowering women and achieving gender equality; transforming the agricultural sector; ensuring food and nutrition security; reducing disparities and promoting equity; enhancing energy security; mitigating the impact of crises and building resilience; and dealing with the consequences of climate change.

United Nations system organizations will step up efforts to support building productive capacity in LDCs through more intensive and better targeted programmes and resources. We also encourage donors and other development partners to increase LDC access to facilities and funds dedicated to productive-capacity building, such as the global initiative on Aid for Trade.

We shall consider, at our fall 2011 session, an effective system-wide response to the Outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs, including how the UN system can most effectively contribute to ensuring its full implementation, monitoring and follow up at the national, regional and global levels.