

LDC MTR MEETING CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE

(29 MAYIS 2016, ANTALYA)

Undersecretary General Acharya,

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished members of the press,

We have successfully concluded the Mid Term Review meeting of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

After the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul earlier this week, Turkey is very happy to have hosted another important international meeting.

We thank the UN OHRLLS, Member States and all participants for their contributions to the success of this meeting.

We are pleased with the high level of participation both from the LDCs and from the Development Partners.

As you know, the IPOA adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul five years ago is a comprehensive roadmap for solutions to the problems of the LDCs.

This meeting provided us with a good opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved in this 5 year-period and discuss the next 5 years.

Over three days we shared best practices and lessons learned, identified bottlenecks encountered and discussed concrete actions and initiatives which are needed to overcome them.

The parliamentary meeting, civil society forum, private sector meetings and numerous side events provided valuable input. We thank all stakeholders for their active participation.

Our meeting was an important opportunity to reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries made in Istanbul.

It was also an important opportunity to further strengthen the global partnership needed to overcome the challenges which lie ahead.

I think that we delivered successfully on both counts.

The outcome document adopted today reflects the consensus of the international community on these very important issues.

It includes concrete actions and initiatives such as the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries which Turkey will host in Gebze.

The Technology Bank will make significant contributions to the scientific and technological capacity of the Least Developed Countries.

We will do our part to make the Technology Bank operational by the end of this year.

An important point we reflected upon is the importance of fully integrating LDCs into the global economy for the success of the 2030 Agenda.

Another important message which came out of this meeting is the continuing importance of Official Development Assistance.

It serves a catalytic function to leverage private sector involvement, facilitate capacity building and technology development.

As an emerging donor, Turkey will continue to increase its ODA and meet its commitments to LDCs.

The effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action is a high priority issue for Turkey.

We will spare no effort towards this objective and will continue our strong support to the sustainable development of the LDCs.

Thank you.