PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES (LDC IV)
Istanbul, Turkey 8 May 2011

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the
Grand National Assembly of Turkey, with the support of UN-OHRLLS

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8:45 a.m.  Doors open

9:30 a.m.  Welcome and opening statements

- Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Secretary General of the United Nations
- Prime Minister of Nepal, Chair of the LDC Group
- Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

PART I:  POLICIES AND POLITICS OF LDC DEVELOPMENT

9:45 a.m.  A hard look at the LDCs today: progress and setbacks, and their political
underpinnings

- Secretary General of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries
(LDC IV) (5 min.)
- Senator, Parliament of Cambodia (5 min.)
- Member of Parliament, Turkey (5 min.)

Moderator:
Member of Parliament, Zambia

Interactive discussion with participants (60 min.)

- How much of the problem is economic, and how much of it is political?
- Can the LDCs do more to help themselves and what supportive policies are needed
from the international community?

11:00 a.m.  Overview of the 2011 - 2020 Istanbul Programme of Action

- Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations (5 min.)
- Network for the Promotion of Democracy and Economic and Social Rights (5 min.)
- Member of Parliament - Member of the UN LDC Group of Eminent Persons (5
min.) (TBC)

Moderator: Member of the UN LDC Group
of Eminent Persons / Member of
Parliament (TBC)
**Interactive discussion with participants** (60 min.)

- What are the main lines of action and principles of the IPOA?
- How will the IPOA work alongside other commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals?
- What role do parliaments have in the IPOA?

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**: Offered by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

**PART II: COUNTRY LEVEL INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

2:30 p.m. **From commitment to action: mobilizing parliamentary support for the IPOA**

Group discussions (40 min.)

- How can the IPOA be effectively integrated into national development plans?
- What capacities are most urgent to help parliaments oversee the IPOA and enact appropriate legislation?

Responses from tables (20 min.)

Moderated by the IPU

3:30 p.m. **Presentation of the IPU-UN project proposal** (PowerPoint) and discussion on a Parliamentary Action Plan (60 min.)

- Director, Division of Programmes, IPU (7 min.)
- Acting Director (OHRLLS), Executive Secretary of LDC IV (7 min.)
- Member of Parliament, Bangladesh (7 min.)
- UN Resident Coordinator (7 min.) (TBC)

Facilitator: Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

**Interactive table discussion with participants** (60 min)

- How to best organize the work of parliament to exercise better oversight of development commitments such as the IPOA?
- What would a typical Parliamentary Action Plan to carry forward the IPOA look like?
- Are parliamentary focal points useful and what should their function be within parliaments and vis-à-vis the outside world?
- How can the UN system support parliamentary engagement with the IPOA at the country level?

5:30 p.m. **Closure of the meeting**: endorsement of the global Parliamentary Action Plan outline; parliamentary message to the conference; suggested activities during LDC IV, and other housekeeping business.

**Dinner**: Offered by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey