Soixante-quinzième session
Nessebar (Bulgarie), 13 et 14 juin 2005
Point 11 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

INITIATIVE ST-EP
The Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

Note du Secrétaire général


La note ci-jointe informe les Membres du Conseil sur la mise en œuvre du Programme d’action de Bruxelles et sur le contenu de ce dernier.
INITIATIVE ST-EP

The Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

1. The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Development States (OHRLLS) requested to the World Tourism Organization to bring to the attention of its General Assembly the resolution 57/541 of 20 December 2002 on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

2. In this resolution, the U.N. General Assembly reiterated its call to the governing bodies of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes of work and intergovernmental processes.

3. Since that time, governing bodies of seventeen United Nations System organizations and two multilateral bodies have decided to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action in their activities.

4. The ONRLLS has requested the WTO Executive Council to examine and adopt a decision regarding the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

5. The Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) aims to significantly improve the human conditions of more than 600 million people in 49 LDCs during the present decade. The overarching goal of the Programme of Action is to make substantial progress toward halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015 and promote the sustainable development of the LDCs.

6. The Brussels Programme of Action constitutes a framework for partnerships based on mutual commitments by LDCs and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas set out in the Programme of Action. The LDCs and their partners will be guided by the following considerations in the implementation of the Programme of Action: an integrated approach, genuine partnership, country ownership, and market considerations and results orientation. The Brussels Programme of Action comprises seven commitments, as detailed in the Annex of this document.
7. **Arrangements for implementation and follow-up.** The organizations of the UN system as well as other relevant multilateral organizations are invited to continue to accord high priority to LDCs, to integrate the provisions of the Programme of Action appropriately in their work programmes, and to undertake within their respective mandates multi-year programming of actions in favour of LDCs.

8. **The World Tourism Organization and the Brussels Programme of Action.** The Secretary General of WTO informed ONRLLS that the World Tourism Organization has already undertaken work that relates to commitments 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the of the Brussels Programme of Action. WTO has undertaken numerous activities that help to build productive, human and institutional capacities (Commitments 3 and 4) in the field of Tourism in Least Developed Countries. Similarly, through the Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty (STEP) initiative, WTO has started to mobilize financial resources for LDCs (Commitment 7), while the work on sustainable tourism development and crisis management helps LDCs to reduce their vulnerability and protect the environment (Commitment 6). In addition, the Special Programme of Action for Sub-Saharan Africa that WTO has put in place since 2003 also addresses these commitments.

9. **The Executive Council may wish to discuss and propose further actions that could be undertaken by the WTO to contribute to the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for the Less Developed Countries.**
ANNEX

The Brussels Programme of Action

Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework. The objective of the policy framework is to create an overall enabling environment for national and international actions to eradicate poverty and overcome the structural bottlenecks in the LDCs and ultimately to put on a path of accelerated growth and sustainable development that provides opportunities for all, particularly the poorest, and enables these countries to integrate beneficially into the global economy, based on the principle that human beings are at the centre of the concerns for sustainable development.

Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels. Success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country.

Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities. LDC’s greatest assets are their women, men and children, whose potentials as both agents and beneficiaries of development must be fully realized. An immediate priority is to focus greater effort on fighting HIV-AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and their social and economic impact. At the same time, longer-term policies and strategies must be pursued in health, education, employment and rural development, with due consideration for cross-sector synergies.

Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs. The capacity of LDCs to accelerate growth and sustainable development are impeded by various structural and supply-side constraints: low productivity, insufficient financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, etc. Concrete support to overcome constraints should be based upon the national programmes of action of poverty eradication strategies of LDCs. Particular attention should be paid to physical infrastructures, technology, enterprise development, energy, agriculture and agro-industries, manufacturing and mining, rural development and food security and sustainable tourism. International tourism is one of the few economic sectors through which LDCs have managed to increase their participation in the global economy. It can be an engine of employment creation, poverty eradication, ensuring gender equality, and protection of the natural and cultural heritage. These facts principally result from the existence, in most LDCs, of significant comparative advantages that are conductive to viable tourism specialization. Yet, tourism is not among priority sectors for socio-economic development in many LDCs.
Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development. Trade will increasingly continue to be relied upon by LDCs to generate the resources for financing growth and development to complement those from ODA and private capital flows.

Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment. Long-term threats to the global environment are a common concern of all countries, and there is an urgent need to address this issue on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Eradicating poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and has to be addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner, taking fully into account the legitimate priority needs of LDCs.

Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources. There is an immediate need to mobilize the financial resources that are required to implement the objectives and priorities as well as the targets that are set out in this Programme of Action aimed at the sustainable development of the LDCs. The large investment requirements of LDCs imply a need for new and additional resources and efforts to increase ODA to LDCs supportive of national programmes of action, including poverty reduction strategies.