Programme

Monday, 4 March
Venue: Kulttuurikasarmi, Narinkka 2

17:00 – 18:00 Registration and doors open

18:00 – 20:00 Welcome cocktail reception
· Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS
· Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Permanent State Secretary, Finland

Music by East Helsinki Music Institute: Senny Herler, violin; Ellen Herler, viola; Jemena Anttila, kantele

Tuesday, 5 March
Venue: Pikku (Little) Finlandia, Karamzininranta 4

Master of ceremony: Ms. Titta Maja-Luoto, Director General, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

09:30 – 10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00 – 10:30 Opening session
Remarks by:
· Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS
· HE. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Permanent Representative of Nepal
· Hon. Ms. Elina Valtonen, Foreign Minister of Finland

10:30 – 11:15 Ministerial dialogue: Strategies to accelerate innovation and structural transformation
Moderator: Mr. Pasi Hellman, Under-Secretary of State (Development Policy), Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Panelists:
· Hon. Ms. Rose Kayi Mivedor-Sambiani, Ministre du Commerce, de l'Artisanat et de la Consommation locale, Togo

Comment from the floor: Mr. Tapio Vahtola, Head of UN Global Pulse Europe, Secretary-General’s Innovation Lab

Second UN LDC Future Forum
Innovation for structural transformation in LDCs
4-6 March 2024, Helsinki, Finland
11:15 – 12:15

**Innovation for structural transformation: Setting the scene**

**Keynote speakers:**
- Dr. Abeba Birhane, Senior Advisor in AI Accountability, Mozilla Foundation
- Dr. Ritva Reinikka, Professor of Practice at the Helsinki Graduate School of Economics, Aalto University School of Business

**Q&A**

12:15 – 13:30

**Lunch**

**Master of ceremony:** Mr. Juha Savolainen, Deputy Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

13:30 – 14:15

**Special session: The role of the private sector in the transformation of LDC economies with a focus on agrifood systems**

**Co-moderators:**
- Ms. Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director, OECD Development Centre
- H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal

**Presenters:**
- Mr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO
- Dr. Amany Asfour, President, Africa Business Council (AfBC)

**Respondent:**
- H.E. Mr. Francisco Jose da Cruz, Permanent Representative of Angola

14:15 – 15:50

**Thematic session 1: Building innovation capacity through investments in education and skills development**

**Co-moderators:**
- Ms. Jasmina Byrne, Chief of Foresight and Policy, UNICEF Innocenti –Global Office of Research and Foresight
- H.E. Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, Permanent Representative of The Gambia

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Thematic session 1: Building innovation capacity through investments in education and skills development

Presenters:
· Prof. Aly Mbaye, Rector of the Dakar University, Senegal
  Digital technology to meet the challenges of higher education in French-speaking Africa

· Ms. Federica Irene Falomi, Officer-in-Charge, UN Technology Bank for LDCs
  State of STI, Technology Needs Assessments, and perspectives from the implementation of the Technology Makers Lab

· Mr. Lukovic Seke, Programme Officer, Data Management, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
  Increasing access to quality education, healthcare, and opportunities for marginalized groups, including youth, women, and others.

· Ms. Andaleeb Alam, Global Insight team, UNICEF
  Green school to work transition

· Dr. Ricardo Santos, Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER
  Mozambique: STEM education to enhance productivity and structural transformation

Respondents:
· Ambassador Esen Altuğ, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye

Interactive discussion

15:50 – 16:00
Coffee break
16:00 – 17:40

**Thematic session 2:** Innovative entrepreneurship to drive structural transformation and job creation

**Co-moderators:**
- Dr. Kunal Sen, Director, UNU-WIDER

**Presenters:**
- Ms. Nigham Shahid, Senior Insights Manager, Central Insights Manager, Central Insights Unit (CIU), GSMA Mobile for Development
  
  **E-Commerce and opportunities for MSMEs**

- Mr. Jean-Michel Severino, Former Chief Executive Officer of Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Senior Fellow at FERDI
  
  **Impact investment on development of SMEs with high potential for quality employment**

- Dr. Donald Mmari, Director, REPOA, Tanzania
  
  **Digitalisation and E-commerce as enablers for a resilient and inclusive integration of LDCs in regional and global value chains**

- Ms. Nancy Samamad, Researcher, Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM), Mozambique
  
  **Agricultural incubators to drive entrepreneurship among small farmers**

- Dr. Rubana Huq, Vice-chancellor of Asian University for Women, Chairperson, Mohammadi Group, Bangladesh
  
  **Equal opportunities for women and girls**

**Respondents:**
- Mr. Kelvin Doe, Youth Innovator, Kelvin Doe Foundation, Sierra Leone

- Mr. Douglas Baguma, CEO and Co-Founder, Innovex

*Interactive discussion*

18:00 – 19:30

**Mayor’s Reception, City of Helsinki**

**Venue:** Helsinki City Hall, Pohjoisesplanadi 11-13, Sofiankatu 1

**City of Helsinki’s innovations for the future**

Light buffet dinner

Host: Mayor of Helsinki, Juhana Vartiainen
Wednesday, 6 March  
Venue: Pikku (Little) Finlandia, Karamzininranta 4

Master of ceremony: H.E. Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva

09:30 – 11:20

Thematic session 3: Diversifying LDC economies into sectors with potential

Co-moderators:  
· Ms. Susanna Wolf, Team leader, LDC Unit, UN-OHRLLS

Presenters:  
· Ms. Vasiliki Mavroeidi, Economist, Economic Transformation and Development Division, OECD Development Centre  
  The digital transformation - opportunities and challenges for production transformation

· Prof. Selim Raihan, Professor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh  
  Challenges of export diversification and structural transformation in Bangladesh

· Dr. Aimable Nsabimana, Economist and Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER, Rwanda  
  The role of innovations in agro-processing

· Dr. Paras Kharel, Executive Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu, Nepal  
  Nepal’s experience with premature deindustrialization and its search for an industrial policy

· Dr. Selamwit Robi, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Sheffield  
  Structural Transformation in Ethiopia and the rest of the region

Respondents:  
· Hon Rose Kayi Mivedor-Sambiani, Ministre du Commerce, de l’Artisanat et de la Consommation locale, Togo

· H.E. Mr. Kan Chanmmeta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, Cambodia

· Mr. Mbolatiana Raharimanga, Economist, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Madagascar

Interactive discussion

11:20 – 11:40

Coffee break
11:40 – 13:00

**Fireside chat:** Managing the risks and identifying the benefits of technology, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), in fostering productivity in LDCs

Moderator: Prof. Jean-Louis Arcand, President of Global Development Network (GDN)

Panellists:
- Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector, UNU
- Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal, President, TUBITAK
- Prof. Petri Myllymäki, Member of the UN High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence
- Mr. Karol Mattila, Head of Government Relations, Nokia

13:00 – 14:30

**Lunch**

14:30 – 14:45

**Presentation:**
*The Story of a Nordic Country: From Poverty to Innovative Economy*

H.E. Ms. Elina Kalkku, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations in New York

14:45 – 16:45

**Thematic session 4:** International support measures (ISMs) for LDCs

Co-moderators:
- Prof. Patrick Guillaumont, President, FERDI
- H.E. Ms. Agnes Chimbiri Molande, Permanent Representative of Malawi

Presenters:
- Mr. Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre
  *The role of the LDC5 Monitor in rethinking ISM and partnerships with LDCs in the context of a policy crisis*
- Dr. Neil Balchin, Economic Adviser, International Trade Policy Section, Commonwealth Secretariat
  *Enhancing sustainable production and trade*

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Thematic session 4: International support measures (ISMs) for LDCs

- Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzque, Chairman, RAPID, Bangladesh
  Advancing sustainable graduation

- Mr. Phuntsho Norbu, Chargé d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of the Royal Government of Bhutan
  Experience of a newly graduated country

- Mr. Youssoufou Hamadou Daouda, Rector of the University of Tahoua, Niger
  ISMs for vulnerable countries

Respondents:
- H.E. Mr. Tapugao Falefou, Permanent Representative of Tuvalu

Interactive discussion

Closing

Remarks by:
- Hon. Mr. Ville Tavio, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland
- Ms. Rabab Fatiha, Under-Secretary General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS
- Hon. Mr. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science, Zambia

Conference Dinner
Venue: Restaurant Pörssi, Fabianinkatu 14

Moderator:
- Mr. Erik Lundberg, Deputy Director General for Political Department

Remarks by:
- H.E. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland (2000-2012)
- Ms. Saana Ylikruuvi, Co-chair of Agenda 2030 Youth Group