

Second UN LDC Future Forum  
Innovation for structural transformation in LDCs  
4-6 March 2024, Helsinki, Finland

## 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

09:30 – 10:00

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

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
- Hon. Mr. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science, Zambia

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

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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14:15 – 15:50

**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, Karamziniranta 4

09:30 – 11:20

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

**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 Channmeta, 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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14:45 – 16:45

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

- Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, 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

16:45 – 17:15

#### **Closing**

Remarks by:

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

19:00

#### **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