

**AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
TASK FORCE FOR IDENTIFYING PRIORITY ISSUES FOR
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN AFRICA (TF-LDCs-AF)
New Delhi, India
07 December 2009: 09.30-13.15 hours**

Year of Establishment: 2005

Completion of the Mandate: 2009

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Task Force will create a knowledge base to understand the problems faced by Least Developed Countries in Africa (LDCs-AF), work out requirements of the LDCs, identify level and extent of support from ICID and explore the avenues for bilateral/multilateral cooperation.

Members: (1) Vice President Hon. Engr. I.K. Musa, Chairman, 2005 (Nigeria); (2) Dr. H. Fahmy; (Egypt); (3) Dr. S. Mkhize (South Africa); (4) Mr. Mekonen Loulseged Kifle (Ethiopia); (5) Mr. Moise Sonou (ARID Representative); (6) Engr. M. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID and (7) Dr. S.A. Kulkarni, Executive Secretary, ICID Coordinator.

Item 1 : Membership of the Task Force

No new nominations are received for the TF membership.

Item 2 : ICID membership of least developed countries in Africa

There are 33 Least Development Countries (LDCs) in Africa, of which presently only 4 LDCs (viz. Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Zambia) are active members, 8 LDCs (viz. Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) are inactive members; while 3 LDCs (viz. Burkina Faso, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe) were admitted but not paid their first membership subscription, so far. Cameroon has recently submitted their application for the membership of ICID.

At Lahore meeting, Mr. Adama Sangare of ARID (Mali) said that Regional Organizations can encourage LDCs for membership only through their respective National Committees and by helping them to conduct some income generating activities. Mr. Sangare, however, volunteered to help the Central Office in identifying national focal persons or institutions in the LDCs. Dr. Fahmy suggested contacting the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) secretariat by the Central Office for promoting membership among the Basin countries.

The Central Office has communicated with Dr. Andrew Sanewe, Chairman, SARIA to provide the contact coordinates of SARIA member countries. In response, Dr. Sanawe forwarded the contacts of representatives of some of the SARIA member countries. The Central Office has written to the contact persons of Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar and Tanzania requesting to extend their cooperation in reactivating the National Committees of respective countries. Response is awaited.

Since the Lahore meeting, the Central Office has written letters to the inactive National Committees of Angola (ANGCID), Madagascar (MADICD), Malawi (MILCID), Mozambique (MOCID) Senegal (SENCID), Tanzania (TANCID) and Uganda (UGCID) for reactivation. Besides reactivation of membership, Central Office has urged these countries to provide views on the key issues in their own countries for consideration of ICID. Similarly, Central office has also written to Chad to become member. Response is awaited.

Item 3 : The final report of the TF

Chairman Engr. Musa (*or his representative*) could not attend the Lahore meeting. A draft version of the TF report as prepared and sent by Engr. Musa to the Central Office was however circulated at the meeting. Mr. Felix Reinders also distributed a draft report prepared with the leadership of Dr. Mkhize, Chairman, AFRWG at the Lahore meeting. The TF suggested to integrate these two documents into a single report and circulate it among TF

members for their comments. Accordingly, the Central Office is in the process of preparing a consolidated draft report by merging these two documents and will circulate it among members of TF-LDCsAF for their comments.

The final version of the draft report will be tabled at the meeting.

Item 4 : Tenure of the Task Force

The Permanent Committee on Strategy Planning and Organizational Affairs (PCSPOA) at its 13th meeting held at Montreal, Canada in July 2002 had recommended constituting a Task Force for identifying Priority Issues for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa under the Chairman of Engr. I.K. Musa, Chairman, African Regional Working Group (AFRWG).

The purpose of the Task Force is to create a knowledge base to understand the problems faced by Least Developed Countries in Africa, work out requirements of the LDCs, identify level and extent of support from ICID, and explore the avenues for bilateral/ multilateral cooperation.

The TF was established in 2005 with a mandate of completing its activities by November 2007 or latest by 2008 on the occasion of the Lahore Congress. However, due to scarce attendance of the members at Lahore, and also in view of the incomplete activities, specially the report of the TF, it was proposed to conclude this TF on the occasion of the 60th IEC and 3rd African Regional Conference in October 2009. However, due to cancellation of the 60th IEC and 3rd AfRC in Nigeria, the Task Force will now conclude its activities at the 60th IEC meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi in December 2009.

Item 5 : Any other business
