

UNCTAD Public Symposium “Making Trade and Finance Work for People and the Planet”

CUTS-FES-(UNCTAD-tbc) Joint Breakout Session on

Green Transition and Poverty Alleviation in LDCs: Taking Stock of LDC-IV

23 June 2011, Palais des Nations, Geneva

“Making the transition to a green economy fair and equitable” is one of the two major subjects of this year’s UNCTAD Public Symposium. 2011 is also the year of the fourth UN Conference on LDCs. The Symposium provides a good opportunity to combine these two elements by analyzing the then adopted Plan of Action of LDC-IV in the context of transition to green economy and the specific LDC needs and interests. Accordingly, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre, FES Geneva Office (and UNCTAD-tbc) will organize a breakout session entitled “Green Transition and Poverty Alleviation in LDCs: Taking Stock of LDC-IV” during the Public Symposium on 23 June 2011.

Background:

LDCs are faced with a number of challenges that were worsened by the recent financial and economic crises, with their export earnings declining greatly and the number of the poor expected to increase substantially. Moreover today many countries including the LDCs are vulnerable to frequent environmental related hazards such as drought, desertification, floods, loss of biodiversity and others. This calls for strategies and concrete action to redress and/or mitigate the challenges, particularly related to making a transition to green economies in order to attain sustainable development and poverty reduction.

It is in this context the breakout session seeks to discuss issues related to implementing the LDC-IV outcomes in a manner that would promote development-oriented transition to green economy in LDCs, which also addresses poverty related issues.

Objectives:

- To discuss the LDC IV outcomes and the resulting Plan of Action in the context of LDC needs and interests
- To present and share ideas on concrete work being undertaken in LDCs to facilitate transformation into green economies
- To discuss poverty related issues, their implications to the environment in the LDCs and possible strategies and initiatives to ensure inclusive resolution of this challenge

The breakout session will hear three expert presentations and will be attended by representatives of governments, international organisations, NGOs, research institutions and media.

For further information please contact Josiane Rufener at geneva@cuts.org.