

## **Green Transition and Poverty Alleviation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Taking Stock of LDC-IV**

### **Event Report**

This breakout session was led by Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).

The situation of LDCs is still disastrous. The LDC-IV conference tried to find alternatives to unsuccessful paths of development and growth. Despite all weaknesses of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA), there would be opportunities which should be used by all stakeholders.

A strong desire of LDCs for independence through graduation from LDC status would be visible in the IPoA. Development of productive capacities would assist a necessary structural transformation, turning away from traditional patterns. Such capacities could be created through: increased energy access using renewable sources, a green revolution in the agricultural sector, and an initiative for green cities to adapt to migration and urbanization.

The example of two projects in Bangladesh using solar energy showed that access to energy would be the driving force behind economic development. Transferring technology should imply providing training to the local population in designing, installing and maintaining technical systems. Support from the private sector would be as important as from the public sector for being a success in the long run.

Agriculture remains the dominant sector in LDCs' economies. The environment plays an important role for wealth creation. Organic goods would be up to 68 per cent less carbon intensive and would respect the need for exporting value-added products. Investment in such areas could help LDCs to leapfrog a carbon-intensive industrial economy.

The current political momentum to strengthen the idea of a green economy would need to be built on sound regulatory frameworks, removal of harmful subsidies, prioritizing green investment, market utilization of mechanisms and taxation, and capacity building. To facilitate the transition into a green economy, external sources of finance, an appropriate technology, and equitable access to the world market would be necessary. Economic growth and environmental protection are no luxury and can be a chance for LDCs to alleviate poverty.