

High-level Regional MDG Forum in North and Central Asia

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 19-20 July 2007

Tentative Programme

Thursday, 19 July 2007

08:30-09:00 **REGISTRATION**

09:00-10:00 **INAUGURAL SESSION**

Chair: H.E. Mr. Sabyrbek A. Moldokulov, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Kyrgyz Republic

Inaugural Speech: *H.E. Prime Minister/Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic*

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Mr. Shigeru Mochida**, Deputy Executive Secretary, **UNESCAP**
- **Mr. Ashraf Malik**, Country Director for Kyrgyzstan, **ADB**
- **Ms. Kori Udovicki**, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, **United Nations Development Programme**
- **H.E. Mr. Ednan Karabaev**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

10:00-10:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

Press Conference (media only)

10:15-13:00 **PLENARY SESSION – I: DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES IN REACHING THE MDGs**

Chair: Mr. Turar Koichuev, Director, Centre for Economic and Social Research, Government of Kyrgyzstan

10:15-10:25 **MDG film show**

10:25-10:40 **Presentation: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Regional Initiatives**

Presenter: Mr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Poverty and Development Division, UNESCAP

Presentation on key findings and updates of the second regional MDG report on "A Future Within Reach: Reshaping institutions in a region of disparities to meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific", and "The Millennium Development Goals: Progress in Asia and the Pacific 2006".

- Updated MDG trends in the sub-region;
- Institutional change towards rethinking service delivery;
- Institutional change for promoting sub-regional cooperation;
- MDG Regional Road Map to 2015.

10:40-10:55 **Presentation: MDGs in Europe and the CIS: significance and priorities for actions**

Presenter: Mr. Jacek Curkowski, MDG Advisor, UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava

The presentation will focus on importance of the concept of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for middle level countries and clarify its applicability in the countries of the CIS, stressing needs for national adjustment of goals, targets and indicators. The priorities for actions to support MDG processes in Central Asia and the CIS, and outcomes of the conference: "MDG-based National Development Strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in Transition Economies" organized by Government of Tajikistan and UNDP in Dushanbe, 15-17 March 2007 will be presented. Special attention will be given to the needs for aligning reforms and policies with the resources needed to achieve the goals and targets specified in national development agendas. Regional experience in MDG needs assessment (central topic of the conference) will be discussed and key messages from the conference will be presented.

10:55-11:10 **Presentation: Moving the MDGs Agenda Forward in Central Asia and the Caucasus**

Presenter: Mr. Armin Bauer, Senior Economist, ADB

Presentation will focus on regional specific priorities to improve living standards and relevant policies in Central Asia and the Caucasus. The presentation will stress the need for specific MDG objectives and monitoring in a diverse region. It will discuss key challenges and opportunities to maintain high social and living standards in the region. The need for regional cooperation will be highlighted to promote pro-poor growth and environmental sustainability.

Country perspectives on the MDGs

Presentations and discussions in this session will focus on country experience as well as specific strategies, programme, policies implemented in achieving the MDGs.

Presenters:

- 11:10-11:20 Mr. Sanjar Mukanbetov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Kyrgyz Republic
- 11:20-11:30 H.E. Mr. Fan Xiaojian, Director (Vice Minister) of the Leading Group on Poverty, People's Republic of China
- 11:30-11:40 H.E. Mr. Abugafor Rakhmonov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan
- 11:40-11:50 H.E. Ms. Nadira Hayat, Deputy Minister of Public Health of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- 11:50-12:00 Ms. Lidiya A. Gribenko, Councillor of the Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 12:00-12:10 Mr. Ali Allahyar Torkaman, Deputy General Director, Management and Planning Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran
- 12:10-12:20 Ms. Astgik Minasyan, Head, Social Assistance Department, Minister of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia

12:20-12:30 Mr. Purevjav Gansukh, Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

12:30-12:40 Ms. Irina A. Medvedeva, Deputy Chief of Section, Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation

12:40-13:00 **Open discussion**

13:00-14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00-14:15 **INTRODUCTION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Chair: Mr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Poverty and Development Division
UNESCAP

Four breakout sessions organized along selected themes contained in the Millennium Declaration and MDGs of high priorities for North and Central Asia will examine the concrete options given the reality on the ground in this sub-region. In this context, the breakout sessions would focus on the off track MDGs indicators in the North and Central Asia subregion and explore the causes/factors which have held back progress in those indicators. Each breakout session will develop a thematic plan of action. A consolidated plan of action will be formulated at the Plenary Session on the day two of the Forum. Representatives of NGOs, private sector, media from the participating countries will take part in the sessions and make presentations.

14:15-16:15 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Each breakout session, where Chairs have not been identified, will be chaired by a participant to be chosen by the group and facilitated by a specialist in the respective area.

Breakout group 1: Pro-poor growth through regional economic cooperation

Chair: (to be elected from representatives of participating countries)

Facilitator: Mr. Armin Bauer, Senior Economist, ADB

Presentations:

Central Asia: regional economic cooperation in support of pro-poor growth
Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, Economist, ADB

Microfinance and pro-poor growth

Mrs. Jhale Hajiyeva, Executive Director, Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association (AMFA)

Discussion will focus on macroeconomic policy issues, including urban and rural investment strategies at the country level, employment generation through SME promotion; and improving the business environment as well as on areas where subregional cooperation appears desirable and feasible, including cross-border cooperation for infrastructure, intergovernmental cooperation, and labour mobility and remittances.

Breakout group 2: Developing institutions to deliver social services

Chair: (to be elected from representatives of participating countries)

Facilitator: Ms. Tuyaa Altangerel, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP,
Kyrgyzstan

Discussion will focus on investing in human capital, developing social infrastructure, in particularly in education and medical services, improving transparency and good governance, and good practices for developing MDG-based national development strategies.

Presentations:

- Children in Central Asian countries

Mrs. Shahnaz Kianian-Firouzgar, Deputy Regional Director for the Central and Eastern Europe and CIS, UNICEF

- Health SWAp in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Oscon Moldokulov, UN Resident Coordinator ai., Head, WHO Liaison Office in Kyrgyzstan

- Creating Community Structures for Improved Social and Municipal Services

Ms. Arpie G. Balian, Country Director, Children of Armenia Fund, Yerevan Office, Armenia

- Poverty reduction measures in the Russian Federation in the context of MDGs

Ms. Marina V. Suslova, Chief of Section, Department of analysis and Prognosis of Public Health and Social-and-Labour Sphere Development

Breakout group 3: Ensuring environmental sustainability with special focus on water, land and energy management

Chair: (to be elected from representatives of participating countries)

Facilitator: Mr. Zharas Takenov, International Senior Programme Officer, UNDP, Kyrgyzstan

Discussion will focus on subregional natural resources issues, including environment, water, land and energy management, rational use of water resource in the subregion, ecological disaster in the Aral Sea basin, and investing in improved resource management.

Presentations:

Implementing MDG 7 and Mainstreaming Environment into other MDGs
Mr. Pak Sum Low, Regional Advisor on Environment and Sustainable Development, UNESCAP

Ms. Maia Javakhishvili, Head, Division of Strategic Planning, Department of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Georgia

Breakout group 4: MDG data and monitoring

Chair: (to be elected from representatives of participating countries)

Facilitator: Mr. Zarylbek Kudabaev, Professor of Economics, Chair of Economic Department, American University in Central Asia

Discussion will focus on statistical issues related to achieving MDGs and what do administrative data tell us regarding MDGs.

Presentations:

Setting national targets and MDG monitoring

Mr. Jacek Curkowski, MDG Advisor, UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava

Mr. Eldar A. Kunayev, Deputy of Head, Statistics Agency, Republic of Kazakhstan

16:15-17:30 **Preparation of a draft of Regional Plan of Action**

Chair: Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Chief, Socio-economic Analysis Section, Poverty and Development Division, UNESCAP

Chairs, facilitators of the breakout groups, secretariat support staff, UNDP focal points, and ADB country representatives will draft a plan of action to be reported to the Plenary session IV to be held on 20 July 2007

Friday, 20 July 2007

8:30 -10:00 **PLENARY SESSION - II: MDG 8 - Global Partnership and Mobilizing Resource**

Chair: Mr. Ashraf Malik, Country Director for Kyrgyzstan, ADB

This session will share views and experiences on mobilizing resources for MDGs in North and Central Asia. The presenters will comprise of distinguished representatives from donor agencies, recipient countries, civil society group and international development organizations. Topics that will be covered includes issues on financing MDGs in the region, resources for the MDGs, work done by international development organization on MDGs and the civil society organizations' role in achieving the MDGs. Presentations will also focus on relevant policy issues to increase public investments in social services, basic infrastructure, and environment management.

Presentations:

08:40-08:50 Economic integration for sustainable development in Central Asia
Mr. Serik Primbetov, Deputy Secretary General, Eurasian Economic Community

08:50-09:00 Financing Private Sector in Central Asia and Mongolia
Mr. Masaru Honma, Director for Central Asia, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD),

09:00-09:10 Mr. Batkhurel Galsandorj, Deputy Director, Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, Mongolia

09:10-09:20 Mr. Metin Genckol, Director, Agriculture, Industry and Tourism Department, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

09:20-09:30 Mr. Akylbek Djumbaev, Counsellor, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

09:30-09:40 Regional cooperation on use of shared transboundary natural resources for achieving MDGs in Central Asia
Mr. Devletkeldiev, Chairman of Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD)

09:40-10:00 **Open discussion**

10:00-10:15 **Coffee Break**

10:15-13:00 **PLENARY SESSION - III: TOWARDS A PLAN OF ACTION IN NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA (reports of chairpersons of the breakout sessions and representative from each participating country)**

Chair: Mr. Shigeru Mochida, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNESCAP

- The Chairperson of each of the breakout session will report to the Plenary on their thematic plan of action;
- A consolidated Regional Plan of Action for MDGs in North and Central Asia will be formulated

Open discussion

13:00-14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00-15:30 **PLENARY SESSION - IV: COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS' ROUNDTABLES: IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN OF ACTION**

Chair: Mr. K. B. Gusev, Councillor of the Director, Centre for Economic and Social Research, Government of Kyrgyzstan

Diverse stakeholders from each country will deliberate on how to implement the draft regional plan of action in their own country. The following questions should guide the discussion:

- Among the action points highlighted in the regional plan of action, what are the main priorities in a particular country?
- What are the best approaches to align these action points with the national development strategies of the country?
- What are the challenges the country might face in implementing them?
- What kind of support would the country need from the international community and from UNESCAP in particular, to help implementing them?
- What kind of monitoring mechanisms should be developed for these action points in the country?

After roundtable discussion, a representative from each participating country will report on the respective approaches priorities in implementing/operationalizing the regional plan of action.

15:30-15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45-16:30 **CLOSING OF THE FORUM: WAY FORWARD**

Chair: H.E. Mr. Sabyrbek A. Moldokulov, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Kyrgyz Republic

Closing remarks:

- **Mr. Shigeru Mochida**, Deputy Executive Secretary, **UNESCAP**
- **Mr. Ashraf Malik**, Country Director for Kyrgyzstan, **ADB**
- **Ms. Kori Udovicki**, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, **United Nations Development Programme**

16:30-17:00 **Press conference**
