



UN-OHRRLLS



UN LDC-IV

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

### **WATER ISSUES IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)**

**Date:** 11 May 2011

**Time:** 8:00-10:00 am

**Venue:** *Tophane Hall, Istanbul Congress Centre (ICC)*

#### **Organizers:**

Permanent Mission of Tajikistan to the UN, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN, FAO, IFAD, WWAP/UNESCO

#### **Background**

As it is widely known, one of the most difficult issues the Least Developed Countries are confronted with is the issue of water supply. Water shortage and poverty in LDCs are closely interrelated. LDCs usually experience the lack of technology and investment necessary to collect, treat, and distribute water among consumers in an efficient manner. In addition, there is another vital problem, i.e. the lack of governance and infrastructure to monitor and control water flows. All these issues require serious and comprehensive approach on the part of LDSs themselves, the donor countries, international organizations and the civil society.

#### **The Main Goals of the Special Event**

- To highlight and discuss different aspects of current water problems in the Least Developed Countries;
- To share information of different countries and international organizations in improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and in promoting rational use of water resources for development and environmental protection in the LDCs;
- To demonstrate effective approaches and mechanisms towards secured planning and use of water resources (surface and groundwater's) in the LDCs.
- How to achieve the MDG and other IADG on water and sanitation in LDCs;  
To discuss ways of reduction of consequences of water-related natural disasters, as well as climate change in the LDCs, and climate and water-related policies and actions to combat short and long term threats.
- To promote policies that apply a holistic approach, taking water into account in broader decision making processes and in investing in other sectors
- To promote gender equality and gender-responsive policies for water development, use and management
- To highlight that water issues should not be considered in a vacuum, and that many crises (such as energy, food, environmental degradation and climate change) that we currently face are linked to the way we manage this unique resource
- To facilitate dialogue and encourage sustainable cooperation among users whose lives depend on the same resource

#### **Expected Outcome**

A summary of the side event will be prepared. This will present key messages, proposals and remarks of the panellists and other participants. The summary will be distributed to all Permanent Missions to the UN, UN Agencies and other interested and relevant organizations.