



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
29 May 2019

Original: English

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## 2019 session

26 July 2018–24 July 2019

Agenda item 18 (a)

### Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mona Juul (Norway), on the basis of informal consultations**

### **Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-first session**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [65/280](#) of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution [69/15](#) of 14 November 2014, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, [2013/20](#) of 24 July 2013, [2016/15](#) of 26 July 2016, [2017/29](#) of 25 July 2017 and [2018/27](#) of 24 July 2018,

*Reiterating its conviction* that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II.



needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-first session;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Notes* the work carried out by the Committee on (a) empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality; (b) the voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>4</sup> (c) an update on the progress of the multi-year programme on a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria; (d) monitoring of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries; (e) reviewing the application of the least developed country category by United Nations development system organizations; (f) improved assistance for graduating and graduated least developed countries; and (g) input to the preparations for the next programme of action for least developed countries;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-second session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2020 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution [67/221](#);

5. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

6. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue that practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

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<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 13 (E/2019/33).*

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).