



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 18 (a)

Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fourth 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 [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, by which the Assembly endorsed the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,

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”, as well as Assembly resolution [74/3](#) of 10 October 2019, by which the Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹ in which it was recognized that the least developed countries warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing the relevance of disaster risk and the impact of disasters in the process of graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling also its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, [2013/20](#) of 24 July 2013 and [2021/11](#) of 8 June 2021,

¹ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.



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

Stressing the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, as well as countries facing specific challenges, including countries graduating and recently graduated from the least developed country category,

Expressing its deep concern that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused immense human suffering and triggered the worst economic and social crisis in generations, with the least developed countries being disproportionately affected,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fourth session;²

2. *Notes* the work carried out by the Committee on (a) the contribution to the annual theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2022, “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”; (b) the review by the Council of its subsidiary bodies; (c) the analysis of the 2021 voluntary national reviews; (d) the monitoring of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries; (e) the enhanced monitoring mechanism; and (f) additional matters related to the least developed countries;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2023 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. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on enhancing the monitoring mechanism to make it more responsive to emerging crises and to link monitoring to specific support, calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations entities to support the efforts of the Committee, and calls upon graduating and recently graduated countries to integrate the monitoring of the implementation of smooth transition strategies into their existing policy monitoring and evaluation frameworks and to establish effective links to the Committee’s enhanced monitoring mechanism;

6. *Calls upon* the Committee to continue due consultations with the countries concerned, while conducting the triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries and monitoring the countries that are graduating and have graduated from the list, and requests the Committee to continue to include in these consultations those least developed countries whose graduation may have been deferred;

7. *Recognizes* that graduating and recently graduated countries face major challenges in addressing the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and disasters, and the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction into the smooth transition strategies of graduating countries to promote sustainability of

² Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 13 (E/2022/33).

development progress, and encourages development and trading partners of graduating and recently graduated countries to support those countries in reducing disaster risk and building resilience;

8. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to develop measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation;

9. *Welcomes* the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for the international community to increase financing from all sources for least developed countries, including recently graduated countries, for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,³ particularly for the strengthening of public health systems in preparation for possible future pandemics, for the expansion of productive capacities, including for quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, while ensuring the sustainability of external debt, as well as for building climate resilience, taking into account difficulties of least developed countries and small island developing States in accessing climate financing;

10. *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;

11. *Calls upon* Member States and the wider international community to support resource mobilization efforts to operationalize the integrated Sustainable Graduation Support Facility, iGRAD, as a country-led and partnership-based global platform of dedicated capacity development support for graduating and recently graduated countries;

12. *Calls upon* United Nations system organizations and Member States to disseminate information on the support measures they extend specifically to the countries in the least developed country category, as well as information on support to countries that are graduating from the category, through the Least Developed Country Portal – International Support Measures for Least Developed Countries;⁴

13. *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, and calls upon the Committee to continue to ensure a substantive exchange with Member States, including through a dedicated session during its twenty-fifth session in 2023, within existing resources.

³ General Assembly resolution 76/258, annex.

⁴ Available at www.un.org/ldcportal; the information should be submitted to ldcportal@un.org.