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Agenda item 18 (a)

Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Paula Narváez (Chile), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fifth 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 Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [69/137](#) of 12 December 2014, and Assembly resolution [74/15](#) of 5 December 2019 by which the Assembly adopted the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,

Recalling also 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

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



relevance of disaster risk and the impact of disasters in the process of graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, [2013/20](#) of 24 July 2013, [2017/29](#) of 25 July 2017 and [2022/8](#) of 8 June 2022,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action and the Samoa Pathway reinforce the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

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 about the multiple and widespread effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conflicts and climate change, which have brought about a deterioration in the situation of food security, energy security, global trade and market stability, affecting all developing countries, with the least developed countries being disproportionately affected, further undermining the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fifth session and the recommendations therein;³
2. *Notes* the work carried out by the Committee on (a) a just transition; (b) the raw reality of the growing external debt crisis: a call for action; (c) an analysis of the voluntary national reviews; (d) the review of the least developed country criteria; (e) the review of the recognition and use of the least developed country category by United Nations development system entities; and (f) the monitoring of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries;
3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-sixth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2024 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 of countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category in line with paragraph 284 of the Doha Programme of Action⁴ to make it responsive to emerging crises and to link monitoring to specific support, requests the Committee to continue to improve and customize the mechanism within existing resources, calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations entities to support

² General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 13 (E/2023/33)*.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), annex.

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. *Takes note* of the finding of the Committee that Solomon Islands requires an additional three years to prepare for graduation owing to the urgent situation in Solomon Islands resulting from shocks that have severely disrupted the graduation process, and recommends that the General Assembly extend the preparatory period preceding the graduation of Solomon Islands from the least developed country category;

8. *Welcomes* the ongoing consultations under the enhanced monitoring mechanism between the Government of Angola and the Committee regarding the graduation of Angola and requests the Committee to revert to the Council on the outcome of the consultations, and recommends that the General Assembly defer the graduation of Angola to a later date to enable the Committee to consider further the situation of Angola and for the Council to update its recommendation to the Assembly in 2024;

9. *Also welcomes* the finding of the Committee concerning the benefits of updating the existing General Assembly resolutions on smooth transition, including for the purpose of providing necessary guidance on the process of extending the preparatory period preceding graduation;

10. *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 development progress, encourages development and trading partners of graduating and recently graduated countries to support those countries in reducing disaster risk and building resilience, and in this regard welcomes the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;⁵

11. *Welcomes* the recommendation for the international community to increase financing from all sources and provide targeted support for the least developed countries, as well as recently graduated countries, for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and for responding to the multiple global crises, inter alia, of food, energy and finance, building resilience to possible future pandemics and expanding productive capacities, including for quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, while ensuring the sustainability of external debt;

12. *Recalls* the Doha Programme of Action, and in this regard calls upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries so as to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement⁶ and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

⁵ General Assembly resolution 77/289, annex.

⁶ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

13. *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;

14. *Notes* the Committee's finding of limited changes in the application of the least developed country category by the United Nations development system since the first and second reviews conducted in 2017 and 2019, and requests that the review of the recognition and use of the least developed country category by United Nations development system entities currently undertaken by the Committee be streamlined, henceforth, into the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, utilizing the strengthened functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for the systematic and effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system;

15. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to engage in discussions in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, on measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, taking into account existing initiatives in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation;

16. *Acknowledges* 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-sixth session in 2024, within existing resources.
