

**Statement by the LDC Chair on behalf of the group during the Briefing to  
LDCs by the Committee for Development Policy during its Twenty-sixth  
Plenary session**

**Friday, 8 March 2024,**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

**Distinguished Madam Chair and Members of the Committee for Development  
Policy,  
CDP Members  
Members of the LDC Group  
Friends of LDCs,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of the LDC Group, let me start by congratulating you, Madame Chair, and the members of the Committee for successfully concluding the Committee's 26th Plenary. We look forward to the key outcomes of your 26th plenary and the Committee's perspectives on the changing global scenario and its impact on LDCs.

I would like to thank the committee for convening this briefing to our group with this interactive dialogue.

I also commend the Committee for its ongoing attention to the needs and demands of the LDCs including the identification of graduation criteria and their review of various studies on pressing issues to the LDCs among others.

**Madam Chair,**

The global context and the landscape of the LDCs have undergone metamorphosis since establishment of the LDC category by the General Assembly in 1971. Their vulnerabilities have grown further, deeper and wider. They have been bearing huge burden of crises to crises.

The wealth, prosperity, and technological advancements we have made over the years have not ameliorated the plight of the bottom billions living in the LDCs.

The number of countries in the LDCs category even today is 45, more than twice that in 1971.

The fact that only six LDCs have graduated so far since 1971, speaks volumes about difficulties facing LDCs in their development endeavor.

Multiple crises that include linger CoVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, and rising geopolitical tension have exacerbated their intrinsic vulnerabilities. This makes our path towards socio-economic growth more tortuous.

Consequently, several countries are grappling with graduation from LDC status. The fact is that in the prevailing conditions, preparation for graduation is taking longer and the transition is not as smooth as envisaged in the UN Resolutions.

Also, graduated countries have still been facing a multitude of challenges including inadequate structural transformation, low productive capacity, poverty, inequality, and social and political challenges. Their experiences show that focusing on the expected implications of the loss of LDC status and associated special support measures is not enough.

**Madam Chair,**

Allow me to highlight some points:

First, the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility charted in the Doha Programme of Action is quite crucial for the least developed countries. The target set by DPOA to enable 15 more LDCs for graduation is quite important. We look forward to the full operationalization of the iGRAD facility that provides country-led solutions with dedicated capacity development support.

Second, the integration of graduation and smooth transition strategies into national development plans, budgets, monitoring, and reporting processes is very crucial for sustainable graduation. Close cooperation and collaboration between graduating LDCs and the UN system is critical to this end.

since phasing out international support measures (ISMs) is a delicate process that requires careful planning from both graduating LDCs and development partners.

Third, the graduation will not be sustained without sustainable and sufficient external support measures. Yet, the commitments of support measures are not fulfilled. Nor are they available readily. For this, it is incumbent upon CDP to expand the study and research to explore the ways for broadening the support measures.

Fourth, it is better for the CDP to develop automated policy guidelines to the LDCs, like the criteria for inclusion and graduation are automated.

Fifth, it is vital for LDCs-both graduating and graduated- to use and benefit from the available external support measures such as the LDC climate fund, green climate fund, and enhanced integrated framework among others. For this, CDP may play its role to support them both for policy and analysis.

Sixth, Countries should be accorded a greater focus on adaptation and resilience-building given the higher rates of poverty and informality, greater vulnerability to shocks, and greater reliance on agriculture and tourism.

Seventh, Improving the scope, where necessary, and using smooth transition measures and country-specific support for all graduating and graduated LDCs is an urgent need to ensure graduation is sustainable, smooth, and irreversible and advances are made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals.

Eighth, Considering the lack of any indicator for predicting possible external shocks and crises, the support measures should also be continued to the newly graduated countries during their initial phase of graduation to ensure that their development track is not derailed or reversed.

We, therefore, request the Committee to continuously engage with the graduating and recently graduated countries for the tailored support they need against the complex global context of lingering impacts of the pandemic, climate crisis, and geopolitical tensions for their sustainable and resilient development. An enhanced monitoring mechanism that mobilizes the existing crisis management expertise of the United Nations system and other international entities needs to be utilized to that effect.

Lastly, as you are aware, an omnibus resolution on the status of graduation support has been requested by the member states including the LDCs. No resolution on smooth graduation has been adopted since the adoption of resolution 67/221 in 2012. In the changed landscape of LDC graduation with increasing vulnerability to economic and climate risks and increasing conflicts along with the countries seeking longer preparatory and transition periods, we encourage an open and inclusive approach in formulating the new resolution.

I rest here and look forward to an invigorating dialogue this afternoon.

I thank you all for your kind attention.