



United Nations
CDP
Committee for
Development Policy

Background Note and Agenda

Expert Group Consultation on LDC Graduation Diagnostics Toolkit

Geneva, Conference Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, 2 December 2016
CDP Secretariat/ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Background

Research conducted by the CDP Secretariat/UN-DESA suggests that uncertainty about the LDC graduation process is a significant constraint to graduation. Such uncertainty encompasses:

- Timing of graduation
- LDC specificity of international support measures (ISMs)
- Actual use of LDC-specific ISMs
- Impact of graduation on ISMs
- Likely impact of graduation on development
- Managing graduation
- Nature of smooth transition strategy

Uncertainty cannot be fully eliminated but it can be reduced and managed through identifying its sources, providing and explaining how to obtain and use detailed information. LDC governments and other stakeholders have expressed interest in assistance from the CDP Secretariat with addressing this source of uncertainty.

To this end the CDP Secretariat is developing a graduation diagnostics toolkit aimed at helping countries clarify the procedure and remove some of the uncertainty surrounding the process. Three pilot countries, Uganda, Bhutan and Nepal, will be used to test the toolkit and to develop it before it is offered to a wider audience.

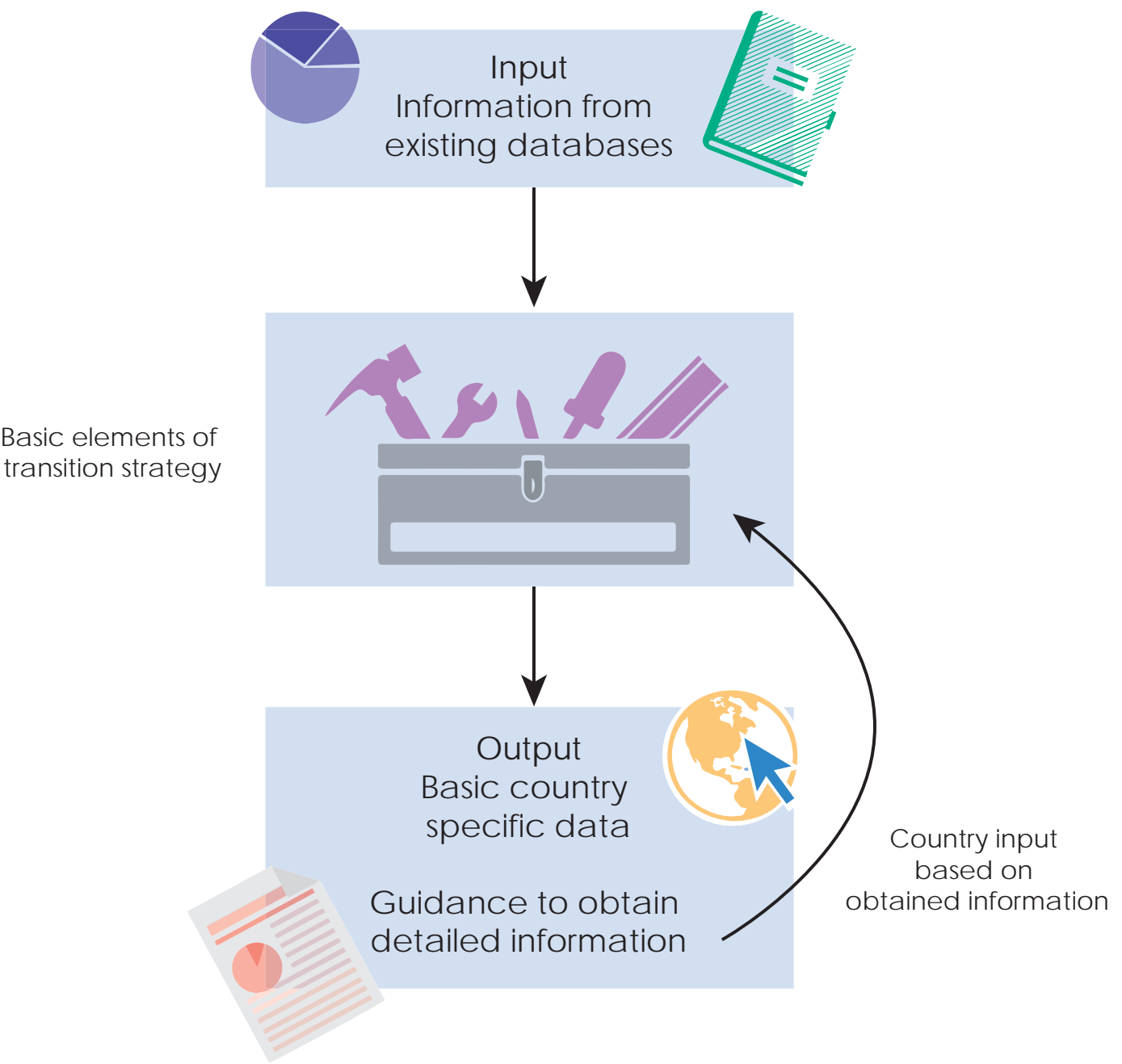
The goals of the toolkit are to assist in better understanding LDC-specific support and better preparing for graduation. Objectives include:

- Accessing graduation data
- Mapping out type of LDC specific support received
- Identifying relevant sectors and impact of ISMs
- Assessing impact on development progress
- Promoting collaboration between stakeholders with the aim of enhancing support and integration of graduation across the private sector, civil society and government
- Identifying policy priorities for successful graduation
- Establishing a roadmap to graduation
- Integrating smooth transition strategy in development strategies
- Facilitating transition strategy

The main potential users of the toolkit are expected to be officials from the Ministries of Planning, Finance and Trade and related agencies in at least 16 countries that may graduate, become eligible or be recommended for graduation in coming years, including: Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Myanmar, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Uganda and Vanuatu. The tool should facilitate collaboration and be useable by different stakeholders within each country and possibly at the regional level.

It is anticipated that the toolkit will guide the user through a list of targeted questions via an appropriate interface such as a website or other ICT-facilitated procedures. The answers can be stored and a final report on smooth transition will be delivered, with links to appropriate sources of information, ISMs (linked to the LDC portal), and recommendations for further action. In those cases where the toolkit cannot provide answers, suggestions for further research will be made.

Toolkit approach



Expert Group Meeting Objectives

The underlying objectives of the meeting are to:

- (i) Further explain the concept behind the proposed toolkit.
- (ii) Provide a summary of the outcomes of a consultation workshop on a similar subject held with LDCs in Beijing from 10-12 November.
- (iii) Present a preliminary mock-up of the toolkit
- (iv) Solicit feedback and input from participants and to assess the level of on-going support for the project and possible future collaboration.

AGENDA

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| 8:30 – 9:00 | Arrival |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Welcome and opening remarks
Roland Mollerus, Acting Chief, Committee for Development Policy Secretariat, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
Round-the-table introductions by participants. |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Session I. Outline of toolkit concept
Daniel Gay, Inter Regional Adviser on LDCs, CDP, UNDESA.
A brief presentation of the proposed toolkit, including project background, motivation, countries involved and expected future timeline and outcomes. |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Q&A and discussion on the toolkit concept: |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | Session II. Presentation of toolkit preliminary mock-ups and summary of outcomes from Beijing LDC consultation workshop
Joep Romijn, Consultant, Up2 Technology B.V., Netherlands
During this session, one or more updated mock-ups of the toolkit will be presented, as revised on the basis of feedback received from a workshop on LDC graduation held from 10-12 November at the Centre for New Structural Economics in Beijing. Representatives from 17 LDCs have been invited to the workshop. |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Coffee Break |
| 11:45 – 12:30 | Possible questions for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you think the toolkit will be useful to governments?• Is(are) the proposed design(s) visually appealing?• Is the toolkit pitched at the appropriate level of simplicity/ complexity?• What additional information or components should be covered, if any?• Who might be the main users within countries? |

- Do you think that more than one agency, Ministry or Department might find the toolkit useful? If so, which ones?
- Do you think the private sector and NGOs will find it useful?

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:00 **Session III. Presentation of preliminary mock-up continued**
Joep Romijn

15:00 – 15:30 **Possible questions for further discussion:**

- What could be done to enhance usage, particularly in the areas of publicity and awareness?
- Do you envisage other possible usages of the toolkit beyond that of government policymaking?
- Should it eventually be translated into other languages, and if so, how to look for funding sources?

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:00 **Session IV. Brainstorming on way forward**
Possible questions for discussion:

- What role can the UN play, eg. in training users, and with using the graduation diagnostic final report that results from the toolkit?
- Where should the toolkit be hosted?
- Future commitment to and involvement in project?
- Sustainability?
- Publicity and mainstreaming in other development activities?
- Any other issues

17:00 – 17:30 **Summary and wrap-up**

Roland Mollerus, Acting Chief, Committee for Development Policy Secretariat, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Invitees

- CDP Secretariat and Rapporteur
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade Related Technical Assistance to LDCs
- Geneva-based LDC representatives
- International Trade Centre
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
- UN Development Programme
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, LDC Unit
- UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- World Trade Organisation, LDC Unit
- World Trade Organisation, Trade and Environment Division