



Monitoring the development progress of countries that are graduating and have graduated from the list of least developed countries*

The two graduating countries, Maldives and Samoa, have shown continued positive development progress. At the same time, the Committee signals the need for support from the United Nations system and the development cooperation partners to these countries in developing transition strategies which will ensure their durable graduation.

Cabo Verde, which graduated from the category in December 2007, has made very satisfactory progress. However, the country remains economically vulnerable and sustained efforts are needed to achieve success in the structural transformation and upgrading of the economy.

1. Monitoring the development progress of graduating countries

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/12, the Committee reviewed the development progress of the two graduating countries, Maldives and Samoa.

Maldives has the second highest GNI per capita and the fourth highest HAI score among the 60 countries. Compared to the review in 2006, the GNI per capita of Maldives increased from \$2,320 to \$2,940, while its HAI position further improved. Looking at the larger group of 130 developing countries, Maldives' HAI now ranks number 39, up from number 52 in 2006. Economic vulnerability, however, remains high; and EVI has increased owing to the impact of the tsunami on its components.

Samoa has the fourth highest GNI per capita and the highest HAI score among the 60 countries. As compared to the review in 2006, GNI per capita increased from \$1,597 to \$2,240, while the country's HAI is ranked 22nd out of 130 developing countries. The country remains economically vulnerable, but there is no noticeable deterioration in its relative vulnerability as indicated by EVI.

The Committee noted the continued positive development progress of Maldives and Samoa and reiterated the importance for both countries of developing a smooth transition strategy with the support of their development partners.

2. Monitoring the progress of graduated countries: Cabo Verde

In its resolution 59/209, the General Assembly requested the Committee on Development Policy to monitor the development progress of countries that have graduated from least developed country status. The main purpose of the monitoring is to assess any signs of deterioration in the development progress of the country under consideration and bring it to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

The three criteria used by the Committee indicate continued progress by Cabo Verde (see the table above): average GNI per capita grew from \$1,487 since the last review in 2006, to an average of \$2,180 for the 2009 review. The HAI remains high and far above the graduation threshold. The EVI improved in relation to the countries that were reviewed in 2009: Cabo Verde's EVI is now lower than about half the countries included in the 2009 review.

* Excerpt from Committee for Development Policy, Report on the nineteenth session, See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 13 (E/2009/33)

The country's economic growth in recent years has been robust. The economy has been supported by large inflows of official development assistance, remittances from nationals living abroad and, more recently, by a fast-growing tourism sector and the related foreign direct investment. However, the global economic downturn will be felt throughout the entire economy.

Cabo Verde has been accepted to participate in the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the diagnostic study has been completed. However, the Board of the Enhanced Integrated Framework has not yet considered whether Cabo Verde will be eligible for further Framework resources.

Although Cabo Verde's development progress so far has been satisfactory, the country remains economically vulnerable and sustained efforts are needed to achieve further progress in the structural transformation and upgrading of the economy.