

Economic and Social Council  
Management Segment

**Presentation of the 2021 Report  
of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)  
by  
Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr  
Vice Chair of the CDP  
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Your Excellency,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its 23rd Session. The Committee met in plenary session from 22-26 February. For the first time in CDP's history the meeting was held in virtual format. Although not in person, the CDP continued its work and advanced important topics related to the LDCs and beyond.

Your Excellency,

This year the CDP conducted its triennial review of the least developed countries category in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has plunged the world into a health, socio-economic and financial crisis of unprecedented scale. The pandemic threatens to reverse much of the progress that countries, including LDCs, have made in advancing sustainable development. After careful consideration, the Committee decided to recommend the graduation of Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Nepal. Due to the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and based on consultations with the countries, the preparatory period has to be extended from three to five years. The Committee for Development Policy has deferred its decision on a recommendation for Myanmar and Timor-Leste to 2024.

Recommendations are made on the basis of the application of the LDC criteria and additional information provided by supplementary data and reports prepared by DESA and UNCTAD, as well as inputs received from countries. The Committee has also taken into account the conclusions of its comprehensive study undertaken on the impacts of COVID-19 on LDCs and graduating countries (mandated by the Council), as well as other country specific considerations as presented by the graduating countries.

During the plenary the CDP also monitored the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the LDC category. This year the monitoring reports included Angola, Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu.

The CDP continued to work on improving its monitoring of graduating or graduated countries through an improved monitoring mechanism, including its proposal for the introduction of a crisis response process

within the monitoring mechanism when the countries are subject to crises and emergencies. This will enable the Committee to keep track of the impacts of the pandemic as well as other emergencies on these countries over the coming years.

I would like to also mention also that the CDP released a policy document last year addressing development policy and multilateralism in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which responds to multiple aspects of this year's ECOSOC theme. The document proposed solutions for the re-empowerment of governments for green, equitable and resilient development, inequality and leaving no one behind, and elements of a new multilateralism in the world that will emerge from the pandemic. Many of its central ideas have become even more urgent.

Your Excellency,

The Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs (LDC V) is expected to adopt the next programme of action for LDCs for the next decade. In 2019, the CDP proposed that the theme of "Expanding productive capacity for sustainable development" should be used as the organizing framework of this new program of action. We reiterated that call this year. The Committee also proposed that the new programme address the need to strengthen LDCs' means to increase resilience to economic and environmental vulnerabilities, as well as incorporate measures that enable the remaining LDCs to benefit more effectively from the support provided specifically to LDCs.

The CDP has been analyzing the voluntary national reviews since 2017. This year we have reflected on how the reviews referred to pandemic preparedness, leaving no one behind, inequality, gender, and productive capacity, pandemic preparedness and response, as well as on the SDG targets that are underreported. Based on our review the Committee recommends that ECOSOC and member states give greater attention to the neglected agendas of structural change, climate change, environment and inequality, the latter particularly in the context of the effects of the pandemic that is amplifying inequalities. The Committee also recommended active engagement with independent civil society inputs, including the presentation of shadow reports.

We as a Committee feel privileged to contribute to the ECOSOC process, and are encouraged by the ECOSOC resolution on this year's CDP report to be adopted at this meeting. We look forward to continuing working with ECOSOC in the coming years.

I thank you for your kind attention.