

Briefing to ECOSOC on the work of the Committee for Development Policy on least developed countries

**30 November 2022
10:00 – 11:00 am (EST)
Virtual event**



**United
Nations**

Committee for
Development
Policy

Briefing overview

1 Enhanced monitoring mechanism

Mr. Debapriya Battacharya

2 LDC criteria review

Ms. Annalisa Prizzon

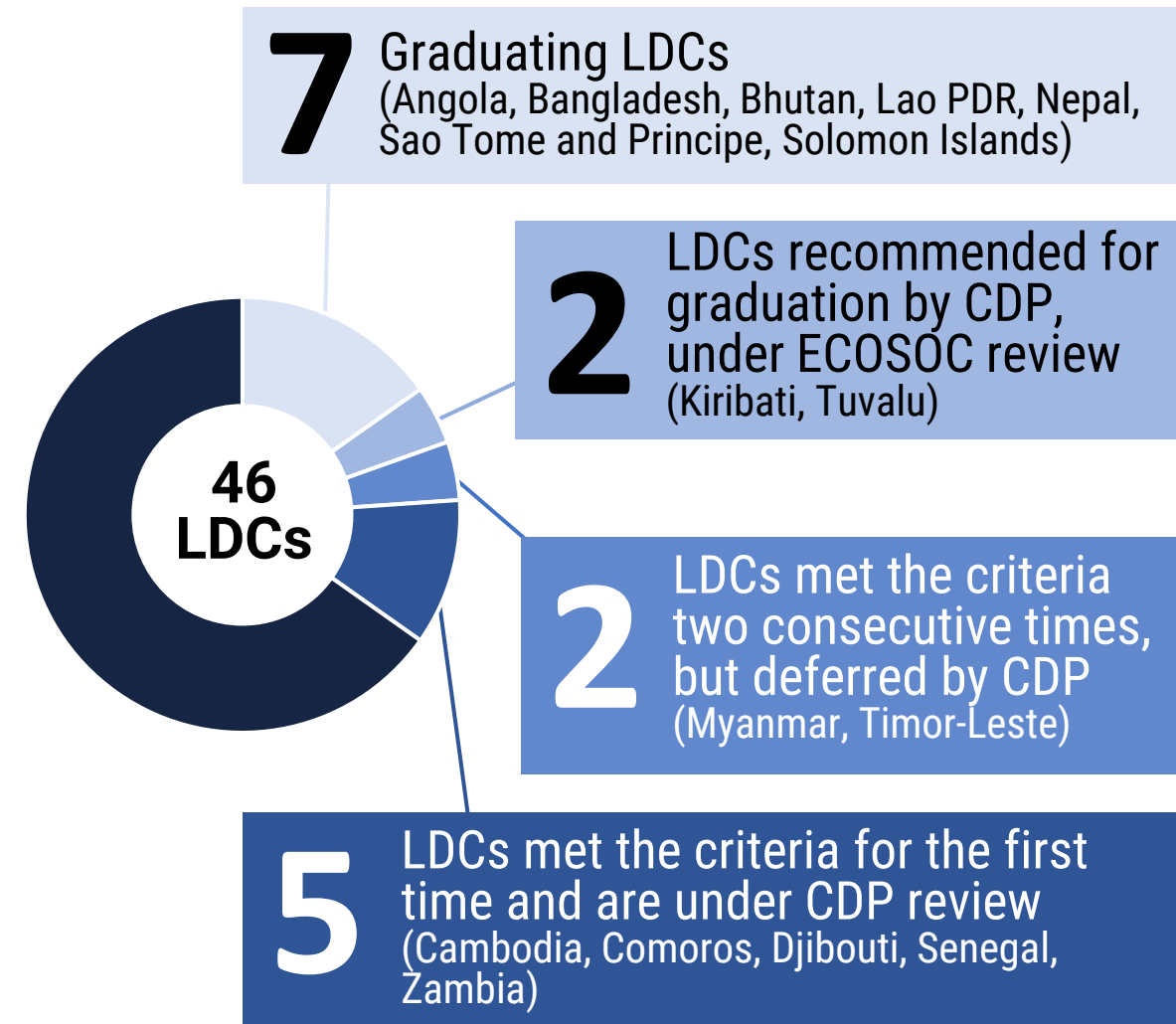
3 Preparations for 2024 triennial review UN support for graduating countries

Mr. Taffere Tesfachew

4 Question and answers

Mr. Roland Mollerus

The LDC category after the 2021 triennial review





Enhanced monitoring mechanism, monitoring of graduating and graduated LDCs, and country consultations

Background

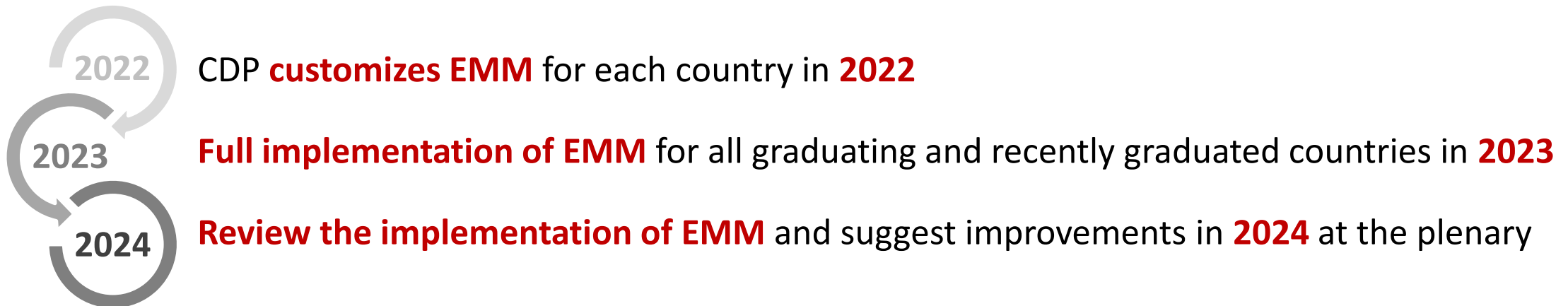
PURPOSE

Enhance monitoring of graduating and recently graduated countries to achieve smooth transition

- Improved annual monitoring
- Crisis response process
- Strengthened support under the monitoring

Strong support for enhanced monitoring mechanism (EMM) by ECOSOC and General Assembly, through DPoA

TIMELINE



Enhanced Monitoring Mechanism

Annual monitoring

CDP Country rapporteur

Improved annual monitoring report

Annual report by the Government

Consultation meeting with the Government

Crisis response process

Regular communication with LDC focal point in the Government

Crisis indicators and trigger thresholds

Crisis assessment

CDP actions to support in crisis management

Strengthened support

- Increased capacity in DESA/CDP Secretariat
- Mobilize UN system expertise in crisis management
- Promote regular country reporting
- Dedicated sessions in ECOSOC fora
- Agenda in GA sessions, as in the DPoA for LDCs
- Capacity development under iGRAD

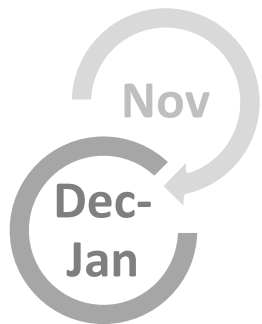
CDP Country Consultation

Virtual consultation meeting with graduating and recently graduated countries

Part of annual monitoring

- Mandated by ECOSOC and DPoA
- Exchange information on development progress and smooth transition
- CDP members, Government officials from the capital, New York, and Geneva, as well as UN entities including UN RCOs
- Includes countries whose graduation has been deferred

TIMELINE



Angola, Lao PDR, and Nepal have been completed in November 2022

Bhutan, Bangladesh, Kiribati and Tuvalu are scheduled for December 2022 – January 2023

Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to confirm



Review of the LDC criteria and their application

Background

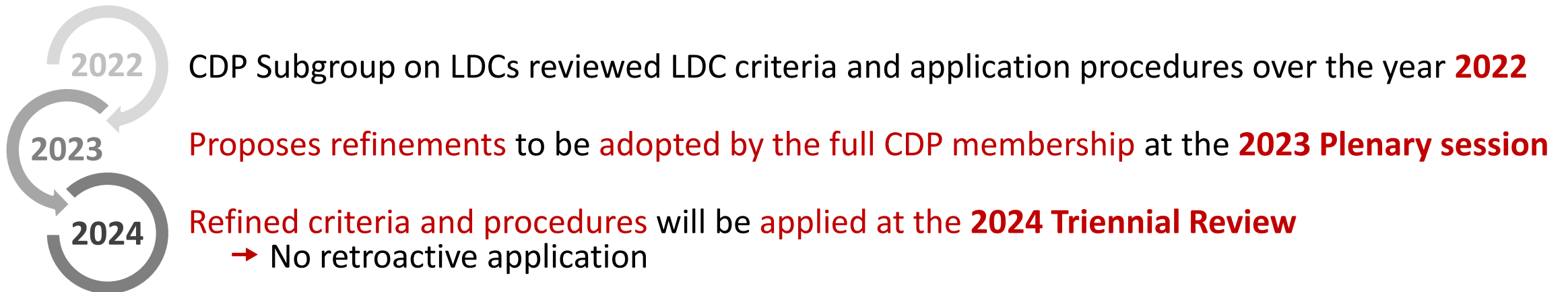
PURPOSE

Standing CDP decision and ECOSOC mandate to **periodically review and refine the LDC criteria** to reflect

- changes in development thinking
- improvements in data availability and indicator methodologies

Review builds upon the **Comprehensive, multi-year review** of the LDC criteria and application procedures (mandated by Member States in 2016, implemented by CDP 2017-2020)

TIMELINE



Modalities

PROCESS

- Review LDC criteria based on experiences made with the current version
- Review progress in SDG indicators and other relevant processes
- Consult with custodian agencies
- Virtual meetings of CDP subgroup, with relevant UN entities participating

Long-standing **guiding principles** the CDP adheres to when refining the LDC criteria

→ *Re-confirmed in 2017 and 2022*

1

Inter-temporal consistency of the list and equitable treatment of countries

→ Don't invalidate recent decisions (concerns both LDCs and ODCs)

2

Stability of the criteria

→ Change should lead to clear improvement

3

Methodological robustness and complete data availability

→ Preference for well-established indicators from international sources, but data availability often key constraint

4

Flexibility

→ Room for additional information outside the criteria (supplementary graduation indicators, country assessments, country views)

Ongoing work on the LDC criteria and application procedure

LDC DEFINITION

LDCs are low-income countries suffering from the most severe structural impediments to sustainable development.

→ *Current version of the LDC definition adopted in 2011*

- ▶ Exploring to capture **inequality** in LDC definition

LDC CRITERIA

LDCs are identified based on **three criteria**:

Per capita GNI, Human assets index (HAI), Economic and environmental vulnerability index (EVI)

→ *Current version of the LDC criteria adopted in 2020 (after multi-year revision process)*

- ▶ Consultations with specialized United Nations entities to incorporate **improved data coverage of SDG indicators** and **reflect methodological improvements** into LDC indicators on education, trade and disasters
- ▶ Exploring feasibility to **include an indicator on food security** to capture vulnerability to shocks and disruptions in food markets

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

GRADUATION ELIGIBILITY

→ *Current basic rule*

Two out of three LDC criteria must be met at established thresholds during two consecutive reviews
or

‘Income-only’ GNI threshold (twice the GNI threshold) must be met during two consecutive reviews

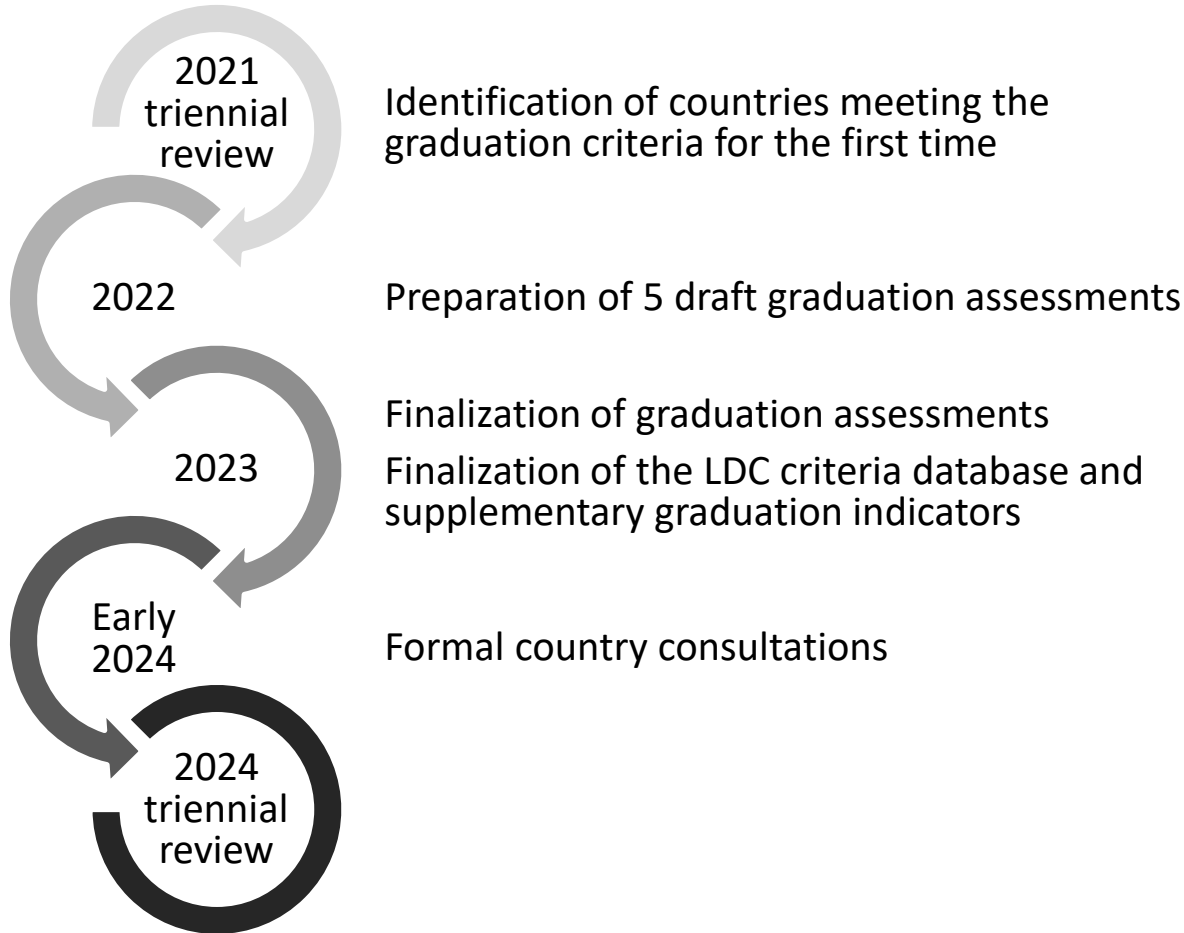
- ▶ Explore feasibility to **phase-out ‘income-only’** as criterion for graduation eligibility

Note: Graduation does not follow automatically from eligibility: CDP takes additional quantitative and qualitative information into account



Preparations for the 2024 triennial review
Graduating support and CDP

Preparation for the 2024 triennial review



GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS

Prepared by the CDP Secretariat for countries that met the graduation criteria for the first time in 2021

Consolidated assessment based on

- UNCTAD's vulnerability profile
- DESA's ex-ante impact assessment
- Additional input from UN country team

CDP and RCOs started providing feedback to initial drafts

Final graduation assessments to be prepared in 2023

Part of the additional information CDP considers before making any recommendation

- Country consultations in early 2024
- Supplementary graduation indicators

Graduation support and the CDP



Strategic Guidance & Advocacy

- iGRAD Service Offering, Partnerships, Operation
- Engage in high-level dialogue to advocate and influence decisions on support towards sustainable graduation beyond 2030.

Policy and Technical Advisory

- Areas of expertise; smooth transition strategies;
- Country-specific studies on productive capacity, production transformation policy review; CDP monitoring

CDP Partnerships for iGRAD

- Global level – LDC5 and Doha Programme of Action with UN-OHRLS, UN Technology Bank, OECD Development Centre, Think Tanks
- Country – South-South-Exchanges



Question and answers