



# Economic and Social Council

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## 2025 session

25 July 2024–30 July 2025

Agenda item 19 (a)

**Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Lok Bahadur Thapa (Nepal), on the basis of informal consultations**

### **Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-seventh session**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [76/258](#) of 1 April 2022, by which the Assembly endorsed the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution [78/317](#) of 16 July 2024, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity”,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [79/233](#) of 24 December 2024, by which the Assembly adopted the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034,

*Recalling also* the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>1</sup> in which it was recognized that the least developed countries warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, recognizing the relevance of disaster risk and the impact of disasters in the process of graduation from the least developed country category,

*Recalling further* its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and its resolutions 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, [2013/20](#) of 24 July 2013,

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.



[2021/11](#) of 8 June 2021, [2023/10](#) of 7 June 2023 and [2024/7](#) of 5 June 2024 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy,

*Acknowledging* the work carried out by the Committee on (a) new development contexts and pathways, (b) reviewing the framework for graduation from the least developed country category, and (c) enhanced monitoring of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries,

*Expressing concern* over the difficult external environment that least developed countries, including graduating countries and recently graduated countries, face in their pursuit towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup> and their own national development goals, including progressing towards graduation from the list of least developed countries, such as adverse impacts of climate change, conflicts, long-lasting negative effects from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, deterioration in food and energy security, macroeconomic challenges and significant reductions in official development assistance,

*Taking note* of the monitoring by the Committee of the development progress of recently graduated and graduating countries including Bhutan, Sao Tome and Principe, Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Senegal and Solomon Islands, and expressing concern at common and unique challenges stemming from multiple global crises, geopolitical tensions and climate change,

*Reiterating its conviction* that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

*Recognizing* the need for addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, as well as countries facing specific challenges, including countries graduating and recently graduated from the least developed country category,

*Acknowledging* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council and increased interactions between the Council and the Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee for Development Policy, and takes note of the report of the Committee on its twenty-seventh session and the recommendations therein;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-eighth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2026 session of the Council;

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of the least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution [67/221](#);

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2025, Supplement No. 13 (E/2025/33)*.

4. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on enhancing the monitoring mechanism of countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category in line with paragraph 284 of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries<sup>4</sup> to make it responsive to emerging crises and to better link monitoring to specific support;

5. *Takes note* of the review by the Committee of the structure and functioning of the enhanced monitoring mechanism to further improve its effectiveness, and calls upon the Committee to consider, in the monitoring of graduating and graduated countries, the availability of reliable and timely data and critical global challenges, including (a) significant reduction in official development assistance; (b) limited capitalization of multilateral development banks, affecting financing for the Sustainable Development Goals and climate adaptation; and (c) stagnation in global trade amid increasing restrictions;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue to improve and customize the mechanism within existing resources, calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations entities to support the efforts of the Committee, and calls upon graduating and recently graduated countries to integrate the monitoring of the implementation of smooth transition strategies into their existing policy monitoring and evaluation frameworks and to establish effective links to the Committee's enhanced monitoring mechanism;

7. *Calls upon* the Committee to continue due consultations with the countries concerned and, where appropriate, increase their effectiveness, while conducting the triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries and monitoring the countries that are graduating and have graduated from the list, and requests the Committee to continue to include in these consultations those least developed countries whose graduation may have been deferred;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance for development and trading partners and the United Nations system to support graduating countries with concrete measures to facilitate a smooth transition, including in graduation impact assessments and in the development of smooth transition strategies and development strategies beyond graduation;

9. *Calls upon* development partners to improve the support available to all least developed countries, particularly those that have not yet reached the graduation threshold but also countries in the process of graduation;

10. *Recognizes* that graduating countries require an extended five-year preparatory period to prepare themselves effectively for graduation;

11. *Welcomes* the finding of the Committee concerning the benefits of updating the existing General Assembly resolutions on smooth transition, including for the purpose of providing necessary guidance on the process of extending the preparatory period preceding graduation;

12. *Recognizes* that graduating and recently graduated countries face major challenges in addressing the social and economic consequences of disasters, and the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction into the smooth transition strategies of graduating countries to promote sustainability of development progress, and encourages development and trading partners of graduating and recently graduated countries and the United Nations system to support those countries in reducing disaster risk and building resilience;

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<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), annex.

13. *Encourages* the international community, and welcomes existing initiatives, to provide targeted support for the least developed countries, as well as recently graduated countries, for the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and for responding to the multiple global crises, inter alia, of food, energy and finance, building resilience to possible future pandemics and expanding productive capacities, including for quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, while ensuring the sustainability of external debt;

14. *Recalls* the Doha Programme of Action, and in this regard calls upon the development partners to continue to provide, as appropriate, special climate change-related finance and technological support to graduated countries so as to support action towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement<sup>5</sup> and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

15. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and development partners to enhance, where appropriate, graduation-specific support, including (a) mobilize United Nations crisis management expertise for external shocks affecting graduation; (b) organize round-table discussions with development and trading partners, including South-South cooperation providers; (c) strengthen capacity-building initiatives for the enhanced monitoring mechanism through United Nations-wide efforts; and (d) operationalize the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD) under the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and recognizes the need for integrating graduation discussions into Council forums and General Assembly meetings;

17. *Encourages* the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue the interaction between the Council and the Committee, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate, and calls upon the Committee to continue to ensure a substantive exchange with Member States, including through a dedicated session during its twenty-eighth session, in 2026, within existing resources.

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<sup>5</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.