



General Assembly

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Agenda item 9

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2023

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/78/L.27](#))]

78/125. Graduation of Bhutan from the least developed country category

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [73/133](#) of 13 December 2018,

Taking into account its resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004, [65/286](#) of 29 June 2011 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

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

Reaffirming its commitment to the process of graduation from the category of least developed countries and to encouraging smooth transition measures for graduating countries beyond graduation and towards achieving sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹

Noting with concern the negative social and economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the continued vulnerability of Bhutan to economic shocks, climate change, and disasters,

Inviting the international community to provide continued support in strengthening macroeconomic stability, enhancing economic and trade diversification, augmenting environmental conservation and protection, adopting innovative sources of financing, building resilience and preparedness for future pandemics, shocks and disasters and materializing the transformation efforts undertaken by the Royal Government of Bhutan,

1. *Commends* the commitment of Bhutan to graduate from the category of least developed countries on 13 December 2023, and in this regard takes note of the

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).



decision of the Royal Government of Bhutan to integrate its smooth transition strategy into its thirteenth national development plan, to be adopted by February 2024;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Royal Government of Bhutan towards its graduation from the least developed country category;

3. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should be sustainable and irreversible and should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the severe consequences for Bhutan of social and economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including by the closure of its borders due to the pandemic;

5. *Invites* bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners to provide full support to the implementation of Bhutan's thirteenth national development plan and long-term plan spanning up to 2034, including by extending all the international support measures, particularly those related to trade, as per the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,² until 13 December 2028.

*48th plenary meeting
18 December 2023*

² Resolution 76/258, annex.