



General Assembly

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Agenda item 9

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 24 November 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/76/L.6/Rev.1](#))]

76/8. Graduation of Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal from the least developed country category

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution [2021/11](#) of 8 June 2021 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-third session,

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 list of least developed countries,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution [67/221](#), in which it decided to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from the least developed country category, as well as the inclusion of countries in that category, at the first session of the General Assembly following the adoption of the decisions,

Emphasizing that graduation from the least developed country category is a major milestone for the country involved as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals,

Noting with great concern the negative impact on the vulnerable economies of the least developed countries from the global crisis triggered by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has further disrupted the sustainable development progress of these countries,

1. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should not result in a disruption or reversal of development plans, programmes and projects;

2. *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Bangladesh, the Lao



People's Democratic Republic and Nepal be graduated from the least developed country category;

3. *Also takes note* that the Committee found that a five-year preparatory period would be necessary for the three countries recommended for graduation at the 2021 triennial review to effectively prepare for a smooth transition, as those countries would need to prepare for graduation while planning for a post-COVID-19 recovery and implementing policies and strategies to reverse the economic and social damage incurred by the COVID-19 shock;

4. *Decides* to provide Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal, on an exceptional basis, with a five-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

5. *Takes note* that the Committee will analyse at its 2024 triennial review whether the five-year preparatory period has been adequate to manage the effects of COVID-19 and make any recommendation, including on whether a further extension would be necessary;

6. *Invites* Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal to prepare, during the five-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and their graduation from the least developed country category, their national smooth transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners.

*40th plenary meeting
24 November 2021*
