



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 18 (a)

Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Munir Akram (Pakistan), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-second 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 [65/280](#) of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,²

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [69/15](#) of 14 November 2014, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, as well as Assembly resolution [74/3](#) of 10 October 2019, by which the Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

Recalling its resolutions [1998/46](#) of 31 July 1998, [2007/34](#) of 27 July 2007, [2013/20](#) of 24 July 2013, [2016/15](#) of 26 July 2016 and [2019/8](#) of 6 June 2019,

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,

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.



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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-second session;³

2. *Notes* the work carried out by the Committee on (a) accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development; (b) the voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁴ (c) the comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria; (d) monitoring of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries; (e) improved assistance for graduating and graduated least developed countries; and (f) a proposal towards the framework for the programme of action for the least developed countries;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-third session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council;

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

5. *Recognizes* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) severely affects the least developed countries, including those graduating from this category, and is likely to impact their sustainable development trajectories; requests the Committee to undertake a comprehensive study, within existing resources, on the impact of COVID-19 on the least developed country category; and also requests the Committee to closely monitor and incorporate fully into its triennial reviews the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on least developed countries and countries graduating from the category of least developed countries;

6. *Requests* 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;

7. *Acknowledges* with satisfaction the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue that practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate, and calls upon the Committee to ensure a substantive exchange with Member States through a dedicated session during its twenty-third session in 2021, within existing resources.

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 13 (E/2020/33).*

⁴ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).