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Agenda item 18 (a)

Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Robert Rae (Canada), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-sixth 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 [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 the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [69/137](#) of 12 December 2014, and Assembly resolution [74/15](#) of 5 December 2019, by which the Assembly adopted the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,

Recalling also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹ in which it was recognized that the least developed countries warrant particular

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



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, and recalling further Assembly resolution [77/289](#) of 18 May 2023, by which the Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, [2013/20](#) of 24 July 2013, [2021/11](#) of 8 June 2021 and [2023/10](#) of 7 June 2023,

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,

Taking note of the finding of the Committee for Development Policy that the changing global context requires updating the existing graduation framework, to make it fit for purpose,

Stressing the importance of 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,

Expressing its deep concern about the multiple and widespread effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conflicts and climate change, which have brought about a deterioration in the situation of food security, energy security, global trade and market stability, affecting all developing countries, with the least developed countries being disproportionately affected, further undermining the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-sixth session and the recommendations therein;²
2. *Notes* the work carried out by the Committee on (a) innovation ecosystems for development, structural change and equity; (b) the 2024 triennial review of the list of least developed countries; (c) enhanced monitoring of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries; and (d) graduation – the global context;
3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-seventh session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2025 session of the Council;
4. *Also requests* the Committee 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](#);
5. *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

² Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2024, Supplement No. 13 (E/2024/33).

Developed Countries³ to make it responsive to emerging crises and to better link monitoring to specific support, requests the Committee 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;

6. *Takes note* of the finding of the Committee that the changing global context of least developed country graduation increases the demand on the Committee and its secretariat under the enhanced monitoring mechanism, and requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources to the Committee secretariat in order to enable effective engagement between the Committee and participating countries in the 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. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee at its triennial review in 2024 on countries to graduate from the list of least developed countries;

9. *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;

10. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Cambodia and Senegal graduate from the list of least developed countries, notes that the Committee finds that a five-year preparatory period is necessary for all countries recommended for graduation at the 2024 triennial review to effectively prepare for graduation, recommends that the General Assembly take note of that recommendation and that finding, and also recommends that the Assembly decide that the graduations of Cambodia and Senegal become effective five years after the Assembly takes note of the recommendations to graduate these countries;

11. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee that Djibouti graduate from the list of least developed countries, also takes note of the position of Djibouti, and decides to defer its graduation to a later date, on an exceptional basis, allowing the Council an opportunity for further consideration of the particular challenges that Djibouti faces;

12. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution [78/126](#) of 18 December 2023, by which the Assembly decided to defer the graduation of Angola to a later date, takes note of the finding of the Committee that Angola no longer satisfies the graduation criteria, and endorses the conclusion of the Committee that the graduation process would recommence when, in accordance with the established procedures, and at a future triennial review, Angola meets the criteria for graduation again;

13. *Also recalls* its decision in its resolution [2021/11](#) to defer, on an exceptional basis and considering the unprecedented socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the consideration of the graduation of Kiribati and Tuvalu from the least developed country category to 2024, and further decides, on an

³ General Assembly resolution [76/258](#), annex.

exceptional basis, to consider the graduation of Kiribati and Tuvalu at a later date, allowing the Council an opportunity for further consideration of the particular challenges that Kiribati and Tuvalu face;

14. *Recognizes* the finding of the Committee that the extreme and permanent vulnerability of Kiribati and Tuvalu to climate change requires specific, sustained and easily accessible financial and technical support that is outside the scope of specific support measures for least developed countries;

15. *Takes note* of the observation of the Committee that keeping countries in the least developed country category for a prolonged period, when they no longer share the essential characteristics of the group, creates inconsistency and poses negative risks for the credibility of the category;

16. *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;

17. *Takes note* of the finding of the Committee that countries graduating from the least developed country category are facing an increasingly challenging external environment, and calls upon development partners to urgently provide adequate financial resources to the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD) to significantly scale up graduation support;

18. *Recognizes* that graduating and recently graduated countries face major challenges in addressing the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and 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;

19. *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;

20. *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 Agreement⁴ and for a period consistent with their vulnerabilities, sustainable development needs and other national circumstances and emerging challenges;

21. *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;

22. *Reaffirms its call upon* all Member States to continue to engage in discussions in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional commissions, on

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, taking into account existing initiatives in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation;

23. *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, and 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 continue to ensure a substantive exchange with Member States, including through a dedicated session during its twenty-seventh session in 2025, within existing resources.
