



The Least Developed Country Category: Overview

**Myanmar Graduation Workshop
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Overview

1. The CDP and its Secretariat
2. The LDCs
3. The criteria
4. The process
 1. Inclusion
 2. Graduation
5. Report requirements



THE CDP AND ITS SECRETARIAT

Committee for Development Policy (CDP) :

Subsidiary body of ECOSOC (resolution 1998/46)

- Policy advice
- Identification of LDCs:
 - Triennial reviews
 - Methodology and process
 - Monitoring of graduating and graduated LDCs

CDP Secretariat (DESA/DPAD):

- Dissemination of CDP work
- Substantive support
- LDC Portal on support measures

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- LDC Information
- LDC Data Retrieval

World Economic Monitoring

- Project LINK partnership

The Committee for Development Policy

Committee for Development Policy News

4 December 2014

- » Presentations at the Workshop on building institutional capacity in the use of trade-related international support measures, 17-21 November, Geneva
 -  [Briefing by the UN CDP Secretariat for the LDC group at WTO](#)
 - » [For all presentations, please click here](#)

13 November 2014

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CDP Plenary Meeting

23-27 March 2015

CDP Resolutions and Decisions

- ECOSOC Resolutions and Decisions
- GA Resolutions and Decisions

CDP Statements



THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

- Concern about countries consistently lagging behind
- Category created in 1971
- Special measures for catching up with other developing countries
- From 25 to 48 Countries; 4 graduations, 2 more in the pipeline
- Countries identified triennially; inclusion to and graduation from the category:
 - Committee for Development Policy
 - Economic and Social Council
 - General Assembly
- Using a set of indicators and additional information

THE LDC CRITERIA

Low-income countries + facing structural handicaps to sustainable development

- GNI per capita (as a measure of income)
- Structural impediments to sustainable development:
 1. Level of human development measured by the Human Asset Index (HAI),
 2. Structural vulnerability to shocks proxied by the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)

Selecting indicators: requirements

- Relevance
- Observations
- Methodologically robust
- Comparable
- Coverage
- Frequency

*LDCs are low-income countries suffering from the most severe structural impediments to **sustainable development**.*

GNI per capita

Human Asset
Index (HAI)

- Percentage of population undernourished
- Under five mortality rate
- Gross secondary enrolment ratio
- Adult literacy rate

Economic Vulnerability
Index (EVI)

- Population
- Remoteness
- Merchandise export concentration
- Share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in GDP
- **Share of population in low elevated coastal zones**
- **Victims of natural disasters**
- Instability of agriculture production
- Instability of exports of goods and services

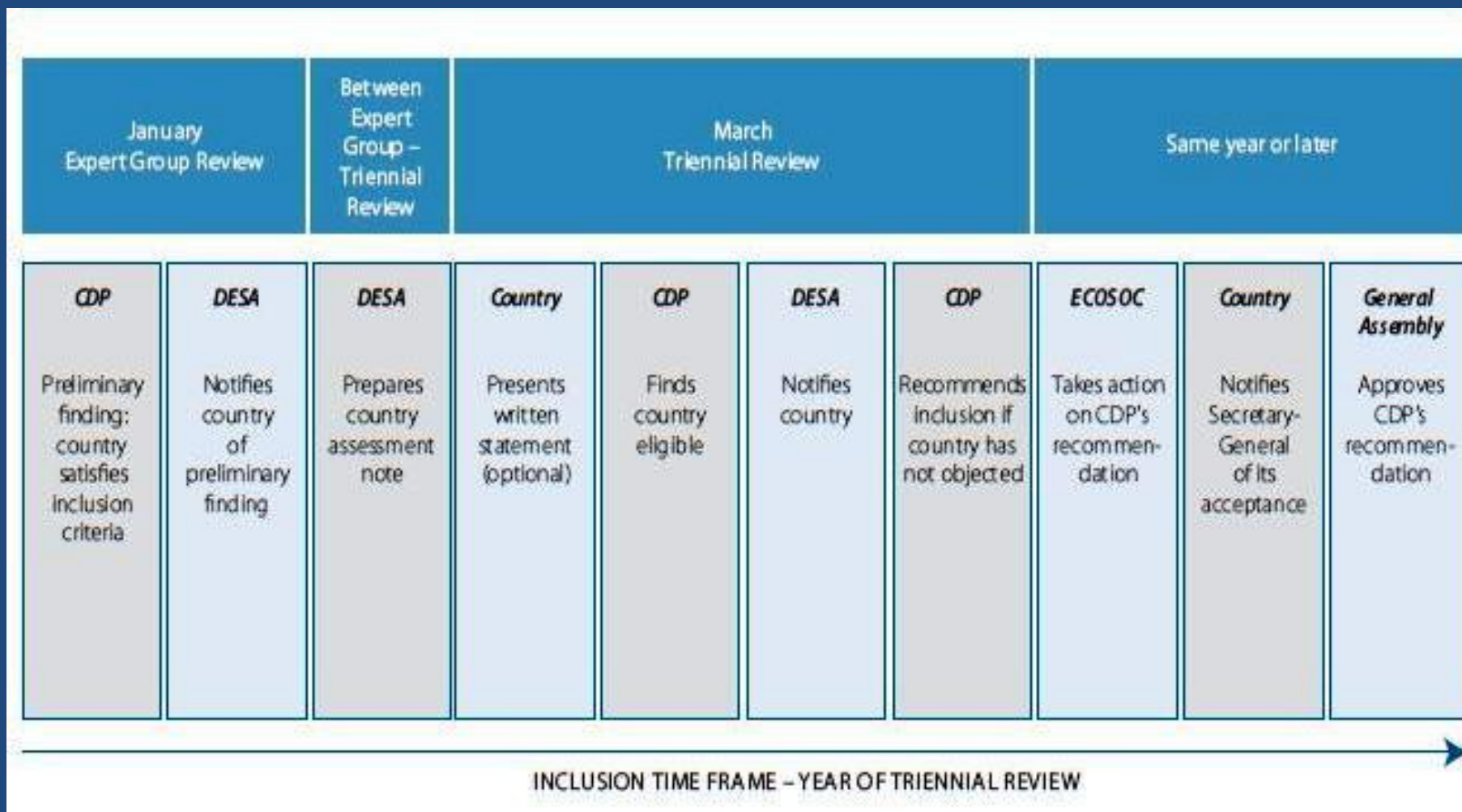
A high-angle, wide shot of a large, curved assembly hall, likely the United Nations General Assembly. The room is filled with people seated at long, curved desks, facing a stage area. The stage features a large, curved podium and a large screen displaying a presentation. The walls are covered in vertical wooden slats, and the floor is green. A large, abstract, colorful sculpture is visible on the left side of the frame. The overall atmosphere is formal and professional.

The Process: inclusion

Rules

- ✓ Country satisfies 3 criteria
- ✓ Population < 75 million
- ✓ Recommended by the CDP
- ✓ Country agrees to inclusion
- ✓ Endorsed by ECOSOC and UNGA
- ✓ Effective immediately

Inclusion time frame



Special Support Measures for LDCs

A. Official Development Assistance:

- ⇒ Financial flows and technical assistance
- ⇒ Bilateral and multilateral donors

B. International trade:

- ⇒ SDT on WTO obligations
- ⇒ Preferential Market Access
- ⇒ Others

C. General support:

- ⇒ Caps contribution to UN budget, PKO discount contributions
- ⇒ Travel funds
- ⇒ Others

- ⇒ Since 1981, support by the development partners framed by the Programmes of Action for LDCs

www.un.org/ldcportal



Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries

[Home](#) [Trade](#) [Development Assistance](#) [General Support](#) [Find a support measure](#) [Learn more](#)





Improving Access to Support Measures

This Portal gives users access to information about special international support measures (ISMs) adopted by the international development community for countries included in the LDC category. Int ISMs are meant to assist LDCs in confronting their special development challenges and achieving progress towards graduation from the category. The measures can be grouped into 3 broad areas of assistance:



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- Targeting ODA towards LDCs: [Lower flows, smaller...](#)

The background of the slide features three large, golden-yellow fireworks exploding against a dark night sky. The fireworks are in various stages of explosion, with long, thin streaks radiating outwards. The central firework is the largest and most prominent, with a bright, glowing core. The other two are slightly smaller and positioned to the left and right. The overall effect is one of celebration and achievement.

THE PROCESS: graduation

Graduation

Legislation:

- General Assembly Resolution 59/209
- General Assembly Resolution 67/221
- Ecosoc resolution 2013/20
- Ecosoc resolution 2007/34

Additional information:

- CDP reports 2007 and 2013

Rules

- Country meets eligibility criteria
- **Eligibility:**
 - ✓ Country no longer meets any 2 criteria; **OR**
 - ✓ Income > double income graduation threshold
- Not a mechanical process:
 - Country consultations
 - DESA ex-ante impact assessment
 - UNCTAD vulnerability profile

Asymmetries:

- Graduation > Inclusion
- Failing 2 rather than 1 criterion
- Eligibility ascertained twice
- Country need not to agree
- Graduation effective after 3 years

Graduation timeline: year 0 to year 3

Year 0 (triennial review #1)

CDP: finds country eligible (**first finding**). Country is notified.

Between years 0 and 3:

UNCTAD: Vulnerability profile

DESA: Ex-ante impact assessment report

(both reports circulated to the country for comments)

Year 3 (triennial review #2)

Graduating country: oral presentation at preparatory EGM; written statement to CDP plenary (both voluntary)

CDP: confirms eligibility (**second finding**): criteria, reviews reports, country views; recommends graduation

ECOSOC: takes action on CDP recommendation

General Assembly: takes note of CDP recommendation. Graduation to take place in 3 years

Graduation timeline: year 3 to year 6

Graduating country:

- Establishes consultative mechanism, with development and trading partners, to facilitate preparation of a transition strategy

Strategy goals: to adjust to phasing out of LDC-specific ISMs and identify actions by all stakeholders

- Reports to CDP on preparation of strategy

UNDP (chair of undg): facilitator of consultative group, provides support preparation smooth transition strategy, if requested.

UN: targeted assistance and capacity building to support of the formulation and implementation of the national transition strategy (if requested)

Partners: phasing out according to country's development situation

CDP: monitors development progress during the period, reports to the Council

Graduation timeline: year 6 and beyond

Year 6

★GRADUATION★

After year 6

Graduated country:

- Implements and monitors strategy
- Concise annual reports to CDP (3 years after graduation)
- Concise triennial reports to CDP (at 2 CDP triennial reviews)

Partners: no abrupt reductions, phase out according to country's needs

CDP: monitors development progress. Reports to Council: annually 3 years after graduation, during 2 triennial reviews thereafter



REPORT REQUIREMENTS

Reports

Graduating country

- Received prior to 31 December of each year preceding the publication of the Committee's annual report to ECOSOC
- Suggested contents:
 - Consultative mechanism: members, meetings, UN support
 - ISMs and partners' commitments
 - Transition strategy: key issues

CDP

- Selected indicators
- Review country provided information

Graduated country

- Received prior to 31 December of each year preceding the publication of the Committee's annual report to ECOSOC
- Suggested contents:
 - Implementation transition strategy
 - Phase out and impact

CDP

- Monitors progress: signs of reversal
- Review country provided information
- Consults Representative through Secretariat

Reporting schedule

Figure 1.

Smooth transition procedures - Reporting by graduating countries, graduated countries and the Committee for Development Policy

Transition period reporting procedures	3 years after General Assembly takes note of CDP recommendation	Post-graduation reporting procedures	
Preparation of transition strategy 3 year period	Graduation	Implementation of transition strategy 3 years	Triennially
Graduating country Invited to report annually to CDP on the preparation of the transition strategy CDP Monitors development progress in its annual reports to ECOSOC	<u>Graduation becomes effective</u>	Graduated country Reports annually to the CDP on the implementation of the smooth transition strategy for 3 years CDP Monitors development progress in consultation with graduated country for 3 years and reports results to ECOSOC	Graduated country Reports to the CDP as a complement to 2 triennial reviews on implementation of the smooth transition strategy CDP Monitors development progress in consultation with graduated country as a complement to 2 triennial reviews and reports results to ECOSOC

Applying the reporting schedule: the cases of the Maldives and Samoa

	Maldives		Samoa
Jan-11			
Dec-11			
Dec-12			
Dec-13			
Jan-14			
Dec-14			
2015 TR			
Dec-15			
Dec-16			
Dec-17			
2018 TR			
Dec-18			
Dec-19			
Dec-20			
Dec-21			
2021 TR			
	Orange = Graduation date		
	Blue = Graduated country report		
	Green = Graduating country report		

A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. A sailboat is visible in the middle ground, and a city skyline is visible in the background under a dramatic, cloudy sky.

THANK YOU!