

Expert group meeting of the Committee for Development Policy on the 2009 Triennial Review of the List of Least Developed Countries

In preparation for the 2009 triennial review of the list of least developed countries, an expert group meeting of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters on 27-29 January 2009.

The category comprises low-income developing countries which face severe structural impediments to growth as indicated by high economic vulnerability to external shocks and low level of human capital development. There are currently 49 countries identified as LDCs, including the Maldives and Samoa whose graduation has already been taken note of by the General Assembly.

The meeting will review the most recent available data and the preliminary results of the application of the criteria for classifying countries as LDCs. The objective of the meeting is to identify those low-income countries that would be eligible to join, and those LDCs already on the list that would be eligible to graduate from the category.

To be included in the category a country must satisfy the inclusion thresholds for [gross national income \(GNI\) per capita](#), the [human asset index \(HAI\)](#) and the [economic vulnerability index \(EVI\)](#). In addition, the country's population must not exceed 75 million. To graduate from the category, a country must meet the graduation threshold of any two criteria—except for countries whose GNI per capita is at least twice the graduation threshold level—and be found eligible for graduation at two consecutive triennial reviews. Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were found eligible for graduation at the 2006 triennial review.