



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.66/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

65/286. Implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 59/209 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/1 of 7 February 2006, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2009/35 of 31 July 2009 as they relate to the need for monitoring the progress of countries graduating from least developed country status, and to the importance of taking into consideration the nature and extent of this progress in determining a smooth transition strategy for these countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council decision 2004/299 of 23 July 2004, which highlighted the proposals of the Secretary-General for concrete mechanisms to implement a smooth transition strategy for graduating countries,¹ as well as the recommendations on possible features of a smooth transition strategy contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session,²

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration³ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,⁴ adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, in which Member States committed to assisting the least developed countries with an overarching goal of enabling half of them to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not cause disruption in the development progress that country has achieved;

¹ See E/2004/94.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 13 (E/2008/33)*.

³ A/CONF.219/L.1.

⁴ A/CONF.219/3/Rev.1.



2. *Urges* graduating countries and all bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners to pursue or intensify their efforts, consistent with World Trade Organization rules, to contribute to the full implementation of resolution 59/209, with a view to ensuring the smooth transition of graduating least developed countries;

3. *Looks forward*, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/171 of 20 December 2010, to the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the support measures effectively provided by development and trading partners for the countries that have graduated or will be graduating from least developed country status and on possible ways to better ensure their smooth transition;

4. *Decides* that the long-standing benefit of travel-related support that has been made available by the United Nations to the least developed countries will be extended, if requested, within existing resources, to Cape Verde and Maldives for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country and for a maximum of three years, beginning immediately after the adoption of the present resolution, and that the same benefit will be granted, also if requested, within existing resources, and for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country and for a maximum of three years, to any other country that graduates from least developed country status;

5. *Urges* the Committee for Development Policy, with assistance and support from other relevant entities, to continue its monitoring of the development progress of graduated countries as a complement to its triennial review of the list of least developed countries, to pay particular attention to the effectiveness of smooth transition for graduated countries, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session.

*105th plenary meeting
29 June 2011*