

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Expert Group Meeting on the Review of the List of Least Developed Countries

New York, 16-17 January 2012

DC2-19th floor Conference Room

Monday, January 16, 2011

9:30 - 10:00: Welcome, Adoption of the agenda, Organization of the work

10:00 -12:30: Session 1: The identification of least developed countries: applying the criteria

[This session will start with a brief overview of the LDC criteria, as modified at the CDP plenary session in 2011, and their application. The session will then examine the new set of data and discuss the changes in national income, human assets and economic vulnerability since the last review in 2009. Finally, the session will discuss the thresholds for inclusion and graduation and identify countries that are eligible for moving into or out of the LDC category.]

Background documentation:

- Handbook of the LDC Category (chapters I and III, including the 2011 update) [CDP2012/EGM/2].
- The 2012 data for the LDC criteria (GNI per capita, HAI and EVI) [CDP2012/EGM/3]
- Changes in GNI per capita, HAI and EVI between the 2012 and the 2009 reviews [CDP2012/EGM/4]

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:00: Session 2: Recommendations on countries eligible for inclusion

[This session will review whether countries should be recommended for inclusion into the LDC list. One candidate country is South Sudan, which became a United Nations Member in 2011. South Sudan could not be included in the analysis of the LDC criteria discussed in session 1 because of a lack of data. However, the session will discuss the available evidence on national income and structural impediments to sustainable development of this new country. A second candidate country is Zimbabwe, which according the preliminary analysis passes the inclusion thresholds for all three LDC criteria. Zimbabwe had already been found eligible in 2006 and 2009, but in both instances informed the CDP that it did not wish to be included in the LDC category.]

Background documentation:

- Country assessment note South Sudan [CDP2012/EGM/5]
- Country assessment note Zimbabwe [CDP2012/EGM/6]

15:00-16:00 Session 4: Monitoring of graduated countries

[In line with General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/286, the Meeting will review the progress towards sustainable development of the recently graduated countries Cape Verde and Maldives, paying particular attention to the effectiveness of smooth transition.]

Background documentation

- Monitoring report for Cape Verde [CDP2011/EGM/11]
- Monitoring report for Maldives [CDP2011/EGM/12]

16:00-18:00: Session 4: Recommendations on countries eligible for graduation – review of analytical material

[This session will review whether countries should be recommended for graduation from the LDC list. There are two candidate countries, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Both countries were eligible for graduation already in 2009. However, the CDP decided in 2009 not to recommend these countries for graduation due to questions on the sustainability of their development progress and, in case of Vanuatu, also due to questions regarding the reliability of its education data. In the first part of the session, the Meeting will review the vulnerability profiles prepared by UNCTAD and the impact assessments prepared by UNDESA on both countries.]

Background documentation:

- Vulnerability profile Tuvalu [CDP2012/EGM/7]
- Impact assessment Tuvalu [CDP2012/EGM/8]
- Vulnerability profile Vanuatu [CDP2012/EGM/9]
- Impact assessment Vanuatu [CDP2012/EGM/10]

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9:30 - 10:45: Session 4 (cont'd): Recommendations on countries eligible for graduation – Consultations with Tuvalu

[The Meeting will hear an oral statement from Tuvalu and discuss the findings with country representatives]

11:00-12:15: Session 4 (cont'd): Consultations with Vanuatu

[The Meeting will hear an oral statement from Vanuatu and discuss the findings with country representatives]

12:15 -13:00 Session 4 (cont'd): Recommendations on Tuvalu and Vanuatu

[The Meeting will discuss whether or not to recommend Tuvalu and Vanuatu for graduation]

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00 -17:00: Session 5: Recommendation on strengthening smooth transition

[In follow up to the recently concluded LDC IV conference, the Meeting will discuss how the process to ensure a smooth transition of graduated countries can be strengthened. The CDP recommendation on this issue will be an input to the General Assembly Ad-hoc Working Group on this issue]

Background documentation

- Recommendations on smooth transition [CDP2011/EGM/13]

17:00-18:00: Closing session: Key messages and recommendations for the CDP plenary meeting