

The Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Planning was established in 1965 as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its original terms of reference were modified in 1998 and the Committee was renamed the Committee for Development Policy (CDP).

The Committee provides inputs and independent advice to ECOSOC on emerging cross-sectoral development issues and on international cooperation for development, focusing on medium- and long-term aspects.

Each year, ECOSOC advises the Committee about the theme(s) that the Committee should consider at its annual session. The General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC can also propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by the Committee. In addition, based on its expertise, the Committee itself often provides more general advice to ECOSOC concerning critical issues on the international development agenda.

The Committee is also responsible for undertaking, once every three years, a review of the list of least developed countries (LDCs), on the basis of which it advises ECOSOC regarding countries which should be added to the list and those that could be graduated from the list. In its identification of LDCs, the Committee considers three dimensions of a country's state of development: (a) its income level, measured by gross national income (GNI) per capita; (b) its stock of human assets, measured by a Human Assets Index (HAI); and (c) its economic vulnerability, measured by an Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI).

The annual meeting of the Committee usually takes place in March or April of each year and lasts five working days. During this period, the Committee discusses the agreed topics and drafts its own report on the basis of inputs from members. The report

is subsequently submitted to the Council at its substantive session in July and is also disseminated among the development community.

Work programme

Since 1999, ECOSOC, as a contribution to its deliberations at its high-level segment, has requested the Committee to address the following themes:

- Gender and global crises;
- Global public health: the importance of tackling inequality;
- Achieving sustainable development within an age of climate change;
- Strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction;
- Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development;
- Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major UN conferences and seminars;
- Measures to improve resources mobilization and the enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;
- Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development;
- The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development;
- The role of the UN system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development;

During the same period, the Committee also examined the following themes:

- The worsening global outlook and its implications for developing countries;
- The international development agenda and the climate change challenge;
- Coping with economic vulnerability and instability: national and international policy responses;
- Reconstruction, development and sustainable peace in post-conflict countries;
- Good governance, development and poverty reduction;
- Global public goods and innovative financial mechanisms in the pursuit of sustainable development;
- Aid effectiveness in Africa;
- Governance responsibilities in a globalizing world;

The Committee also undertook three reviews (in 2000, 2003 and 2006) of the list of least developed countries, and continued its work on improving the methodology for identifying the countries that should be included on or could be graduated from the list. It has also established guidelines on the inclusion and graduation process and is currently working on procedures to monitor countries that graduate from the category.

Membership

In accordance with the Council's resolutions, the Secretary-General nominates 24 experts, in their personal capacity, as members of the Committee for three-year terms. ECOSOC has responsibility for deciding on appointments to the Committee.

In making the nominations for the Committee, the Secretary-General takes into account the need to have a diversity of development experience, including ecologists, economists, and social scientists, as well as geographical balance, gender balance, and a balance between continuity and change in the membership of the Committee. ■



January 2010

Current CDP members

(1 January 2010-31 December 2012)

Bina **Agarwal** (India), Professor of Economics, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University

Mary Helena **Allegretti** (Brazil), Independent consultant

José Antonio **Alonso** (Spain), Director, Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales, Complutense University of Madrid

Alice **Amsden** (United States of America), Barton L. Weller Professor of Political Economy, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Lourdes **Arizpe** (Mexico), Professor, Regional Center for Multidisciplinary Research, National University of Mexico

Kwesi **Botchwey** (Ghana), Professor of Practice in Development Economics, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Giovanni Andrea **Cornia** (Italy), Professor of Economics and Director of the PhD Programme in Development Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Florence

Ricardo **Ffrench-Davis** (Chile), Principal adviser at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Professor of Economics at the University of Chile

Sakiko **Fukuda-Parr** (Japan), Professor of International Affairs at The New School

Norman **Girvan** (Jamaica), Professorial Research Fellow at the University of the West Indies

Philippe **Hein** (Mauritius), Visiting Fellow, Centre for Applied Social Research, University of Mauritius

Mulu **Ketsela** (Ethiopia), Independent researcher

Wahiduddin **Mahmud** (Bangladesh), Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Dhaka

Amina **Mama** (South Africa), Barbara Lee Distinguished Chair in Women's Leadership, Mills College

Thandika **Mkwandawire** (Sweden), Olof Palme Visiting Professor, Swedish Research Council

Adil **Najam** (Pakistan), Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future

Hans **Opschoor** (Netherlands), Professor of Sustainable Development Economics, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

Pasuk **Phongpaichit** (Thailand), Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

Patrick **Plane** (France), Executive Director of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International

Fatima **Sadiqi** (Morocco), President, Center for Studies and Research on Women

Frances **Stewart** (United Kingdom), Professor of Development Economics, University of Oxford

Milica **Uvalic** (Serbia), Professor, Department of Economics, Finance and Statistics, University of Perugia

Yu **Yongding** (China), Director General, Institute of World Economics and Politics

For more information

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