

CDP Open Session "ECOSOC interaction"
Friday 24 February 2023, 10:00-11:30am

Opening remarks by the ECOSOC President

Distinguished Chair, and Members of the Committee for Development Policy,
Excellencies, Colleagues,

It's a great pleasure to be with you today for this interactive session.

Our continuous engagement with the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is important for informing the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and shaping UN development policy.

One yardstick of the success of our collective development efforts is reflected in the socio-economic progress of the LDCs, recently facing setbacks due to multiple crises.

As we reach the midpoint in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the CDP's analysis and understanding of the situation in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) can strengthen the impact of our deliberations. It allows us to maintain the compass on these countries where the battle to realize the SDGs will ultimately be won or lost, even though no country was spared the dramatic impacts of the multiple crises we are facing. It can also help re-orient the work of the UN Development System, along with development partners.

The Committee's analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews is critical to help Member States finetune the focus of their review. I welcome that you work relentlessly on increasing the impacts of the VNRs, which have been a key achievement of the 2030 Agenda. I salute the work of Professor Fukuda-Parr and other CDP Members on this issue. It will be very useful when Member States review the functioning of the high-level political forum on sustainable development at the 78th session of the General Assembly.

Your contributions to the ECOSOC theme as well as the timely discussions on external debt and just transition will all help us ensure a more impactful High Level Political Forum. It will also support the SDG Summit in September, which should be a pivot event to put us on the road to the SDGs.

Next month, actually a little over a week from now, the LDC5 Conference in Doha, Qatar, will bring together world leaders, the private sector, civil society,

parliamentarians, and young people to set a roadmap for delivering the Doha Programme of Action.

I have noted the steps underway in establishing the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility - iGRAD, by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the secretariat for the CDP, and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as Chair of the inter-agency task force on LDC graduation.

This facility will serve as the key hub for the UN's integrated and coordinated support to graduating and recently graduated countries.

In addition, the mechanism established by the CDP to enhance the monitoring of these countries, including through swift responses to crises, will ensure a smooth and sustainable transition for countries in various stages of the graduation process, currently numbering 16.

At the same time, we must continue to ensure that LDCs that are not yet in the graduation pipeline receive adequate support for accelerating their progress towards the SDGs.

The CDP's Triennial Review in 2024 will be a significant and comprehensive stock-taking to guide our reflections on the cumulative impact of multiple crises and challenges. Preparing well for this event, which started this year with the review of the LDC criteria, is important.

I look forward to a fruitful interactive session with the CDP and hope it serves to further strengthen the close dialogue between the CDP and the Council.