

Monitoring the development progress of countries graduating from the category**Maldives**

Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/12 requests the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council. In response to the ECOSOC resolution, the EGM reviewed the development progress of Maldives and Samoa in conjunction with the 2009 triennial review of the list of least developed countries.

Maldives has recovered strongly from the tsunami disaster and now has the second highest GNI per capita and the fourth highest HAI score among the reference group composed of 60 least developed and low-income developing countries. Compared to the review in 2006, Maldives' GNI per capita increased from \$2,320 to \$2,940 while its HAI value further improved in relation to the graduation threshold. Looking at the larger group of 130 developing countries, Maldives now ranks number 39, up from number 52 in 2006. Economic vulnerability however remains high and became more acute over the period. The country's EVI is estimated at 58 at the 2009 review (51 in the 2006 review), compared to a graduation threshold of 38 (also in 2006). The deterioration of the country's EVI is largely due to a weaker performance under the "homelessness" component which was the result of the tsunami of December 2004.

On the basis of this information, the EGM noted the continued positive development progress of Maldives and Samoa. The group also noted that both countries are to graduate in the near future (Maldives in 2011 and Samoa in 2010) and reiterate the importance of developing their smooth transition strategy with the support of their respective development partners.