



Review by the Economic and Social Council of subsidiary bodies*

In response to the review by the Council of subsidiary bodies, the Committee assessed its working methods, programme of work and engagement with the Council in accordance with the guidance provided by the Council's Vice-Presidency. The Committee found its work to be closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda, noting its mandate to provide recommendations to the Council on the graduation of countries from the least developed country category, the work on analysis of the voluntary national reviews and its annual contributions to the Council's theme. In the assessments of its working methods, the members

found them generally effective, highlighting the formation of thematic subgroups, the assignment of country rapporteurs and the organization of virtual expert group meetings and webinars. The Committee also noted its engagement with the Council through the events organized during its plenary session, the participation in events of the high-level segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development as well as interactions with other subsidiary bodies and entities from within and outside the United Nations system.

The Committee welcomes the review by the Council of its subsidiary bodies and looks forward to supporting the review process over the coming months. The Committee assessed its working methods, programme of work and engagement with the Council and its subsidiary system in line with the guidance provided by the Council's Vice-Presidency and found them to be effective and closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and relevant conferences.

The Committee is mandated to provide recommendations to the Council on the graduation of countries from, and inclusion in, the least developed country category. The recommendations are evidence-based and rooted in a comprehensive methodology to assess progress on least developed country criteria and indicators, as well as country-specific analyses. The Committee recently further strengthened the evidence-

based nature of the graduation process by introducing supplementary graduation indicators into the methodology and by developing an enhanced monitoring mechanism for countries that are graduating or have graduated from the least developed country category.

The Committee undertakes analysis on key development challenges affecting all least developed countries¹ and provided proposals for the new Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries. The analyses and proposals are well reflected in, among others, the draft Programme of Action and the ministerial declaration adopted at the 2021 high-level political forum, indicating the impact of the Committee in this area of work. The Committee also guides the capacity-building and information services of its secretariat on least developed countries in general and on their graduation in particular.

¹ Recent examples include the comprehensive study on the impact of COVID-19 and the multi-year work on expanding productive capacities.

* Excerpt from Committee for Development Policy, Report on the twenty-fourth session, See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 13 (E/2022/33)

The Committee has established a voluntary national review subgroup that has been analysing the reviews presented at the high-level political forum every year since 2017. The Committee report provides points for consideration by Governments and other stakeholders participating in the reviews. Its recommendations are aimed at enhancing the role of the voluntary national reviews as an effective instrument in accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guided by the Council's theme, the Committee produces reports and policy papers with analysis to inform its recommendations. The Committee has consistently advocated for the centrality of productive capacity to achieve the Goals, both in least developed countries and other developing countries. In response to the theme for 2022, chapter II discusses how industrial policy can help to address multiple and simultaneous challenges related to climate change, inequality and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The Committee intends to work on green transition and issues of debt and international finance in response to the Council's theme for 2023.

The Committee is actively involved and in contact with the Council and its subsidiary bodies and other United Nations entities. Committee members have participated in the high-level segment and the integration segment in the past and, since 2022, the coordination segment, the Development Cooperation Forum, the high-level political forum and its side events, and other Council events as well as other forums within the United Nations. The Committee has engaged in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Conference on Trade and Development, resident coordinator offices, regional commissions, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and, outside the United Nations system, the World Trade Organization, the International Trade Centre, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and multiple other partners in the area of coordination of support to graduating countries and policy analysis. Since 2018, it has conducted briefings on least developed country issues for Council members. In 2021, the Committee also introduced a "Council interaction" held after the conclusion of its plenary, which allowed for a more open discussion between Council members and the Committee. Concrete feedback on these events could assist the Committee in effective dissemination of its findings and recommendations as well as enhanced engagement with the Council.

In terms of good practices with respect to its working arrangements, the Committee notes that activities are undertaken in subgroups, thereby allowing members to focus on certain aspects of the workplan (Council theme, least developed country issues and voluntary national reviews). In its work on one of the key mandates, namely, identifying countries for graduation from the least developed country category, the Committee appoints, among its members, country rapporteurs to ensure continuity of participation in the graduation process during the years leading to a country's exit from the least developed country category and closer engagement at the country level.

Through the establishment of the least developed country graduation assessment, the Committee fostered closer interaction with the least developed countries and regional coordinator offices, allowing the graduation process to be more inclusive and transparent. The Committee has also been organizing virtual webinars and expert group meetings over the past two years and has found them to be an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive means of disseminating work and engaging with Member States and other stakeholders.

The Committee integrates its analytical work with the intergovernmental process and through its secretariat undertakes important capacity development work that informs the analysis and recommendations of the Committee to the Council.

With respect to the Council's reform and review of subsidiary bodies, the Committee is looking forward to receiving additional guidance and to learning from the experiences of other subsidiary bodies. In particular, the Committee invites the Council to identify more targeted and specific questions or problems related to the broader Council theme to which it could contribute its unique and diverse experience and expertise. The Committee would also welcome a review by the Council of how the policy recommendations of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, including the Committee, are implemented by Member States and United Nations entities.

While a central resource for accessing the proceedings and schedules of subsidiary bodies exists on the "Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies" webpage on the United Nations Secretariat website, a more comprehensive and searchable repository consolidating all events, reports, and outputs and publications of different subsidiary bodies and their secretariats could facilitate coordination and collaboration among the Council's subsidiary bodies.