

Economic and Social Council
Management Segment

**Presentation of the 2022 Report
of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)
by
Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr
Vice-Chair of the CDP
New York, 8 June 2022
ECOSOC Chamber**

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its 24th Session. The Committee met from 21-25 February and, for the second time in CDP's history, the meeting was held in virtual format. Although not in person, the CDP continued its work with a new CDP membership for 2022-24 and advanced important topics related to the LDCs and beyond.

First and foremost, the Committee expressed its concern at the ongoing devastating socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the least developed countries and committed itself to carefully considering the impacts in all its upcoming work on those countries.

Of particular interest to ECOSOC this year, we discussed the review by the Council of its subsidiary bodies. The Committee's assessment found its work closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda., and its working methods generally effective, highlighting the formation of thematic subgroups, the assignment of country rapporteurs for graduating LDCs 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.

Your Excellency,

With respect to the theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2022, the Committee focused on how industrial policies can be used to address the simultaneous challenges faced by Governments as they build forward from the COVID-19 crisis as well as the pre-existing crises of climate change and inequality. The Committee found that industrial policies should contribute in particular to the development of productive capabilities and of adequate infrastructure.

As you are all aware, the CDP has been analyzing the voluntary national reviews since 2017. This year's analysis indicates that the VNRs presented in 2021 showed welcome improvements compared with earlier reports in the more consistent

discussion of the commitment to leave no one behind, and more attention to targets for the environment and inequality. At the same time, there is continued concern over an apparent disconnect between the VNRs and the transformative potential of the agenda. This is due in part to the lack of substance and analysis of the challenges. The VNRs are to be a vehicle for sharing lessons on how countries are responding to the urgent challenge to accelerate – and re-steer – implementation, as called for in the SDG progress reports, and by the Secretary General in his recent report, Our Common Agenda. Indeed in his recent address to ECOSOC, the SG has stated bluntly “It is clear—we are moving in the wrong direction”, called for urgent action, to “rescue the SDGs”.

In its monitoring of countries that are graduating and have graduated from the least developed country category, the Committee reviewed the progress of one recently graduated country, namely, Vanuatu, and seven graduating countries, namely, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands. The Committee expressed its concern at the limited national capacity of those countries to address diverse challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and debt sustainability. It urges the countries to continue reporting to the Committee on their progress on preparing and implementing the smooth transition strategy. The Committee also adopted procedures for an improved annual monitoring and agreed on next steps to finalize the new crisis response process and strengthened measures that better link monitoring to special graduation support.

Not least, the Committee highlighted the need to start the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on an expedited basis. In that regard, the Committee reviewed the progress in developing the integrated sustainable graduation support

facility, or iGRAD. It stressed the urgency of operationalizing the facility in 2022 and the importance of resource mobilization support from Member States and the wider international community.

Your Excellency,

We as a Committee continue to feel privileged to contribute to the ECOSOC process, and we look forward to continue working with ECOSOC in the coming years with our newly revived membership.

I thank you for your kind attention.