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.

Current CDP Members
(1 January 2013-31 December 2015)
Lu Aiguo (China), Senior Fellow at the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
José Antonio Alonso (Spain), Professor of Applied Economics, Complutense University
Nouria Benghabrit-Reimaoun (Algeria), Director, Centre national de recherche en anthropologie sociale et culturelle
Giovanni Andrea Cornia (Italy), Professor of Economics, University of Florence
Diane Elson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Professor Emeritus, University of Essex
Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Japan), Professor of International Affairs, The New School
Norman Girvan (Jamaica), Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies
Ann Harrison (United States of America), Professor of Multinational Management, University of Pennsylvania
Stephan Klasen (Germany), Professor of Economics, University of Göttingen
Keun Lee (Republic of Korea), Professor of Economics, Seoul National University
Wahiduddin Mahmud (Bangladesh), Professor of Economics, Dhaka University
Thandika Mkandawire (Sweden), Chair of African Development Studies, London School of Economics
Adil Najam (Pakistan), Vice-Chancellor, Lahore University of Management Sciences
Léonce Ndikumana (Burundi), Andrew Glyn Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts
José Antonio Ocampo Gaviria (Colombia), Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
Tea Petrin (Slovenia), Professor of Economics, University of Ljubljana
Patrick Plane (France), Executive Director, Centre d’études et de recherches sur le développement international
Victor Polterovich (Russian Federation), Professor, Russian Academy of Sciences
Pilar Romaguera (Chile), Dean, Faculty of Education, Universidad de las Américas
Onalemma Selolwane (Botswana), Senior Lecturer, University of Botswana
Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo (Mexico), Professor, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Madhura Swaminathan (India), Professor, Indian Statistical Institute
Zenebewerke Tadesse (Ethiopia), Senior global development consultant
Dzodzi Tsikata (Ghana), Professor, University of Ghana

For more information
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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 independent analysis and 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 on emerging 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

As a contribution to the deliberations at the high-level segment of the ECOSOC, the Committee has addressed several themes, including:

- The generation of productive capacity and employment;
- Quality education for all;
- 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;
- Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major UN conferences and seminars;
- 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;

Additionally, the Committee has examined the following themes:

- The United Nations agenda beyond 2015;
- Strengthening international support measures for LDCs;
- Migration and development: the effects of the crisis and policy responses;
- 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;
- The UN development strategy for small islands developing States;
- 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.

Since the adoption of its new terms of reference, the Committee has undertaken five triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries; the next review will take place in 2015. The Committee has continued to improve 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 processes and provided important inputs for the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process of countries graduating from the LDC category.