

LDC5 ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL REVIEW (APRR)
SESSION 3
**Supporting sustainable graduation: making graduation irreversible
and a steppingstone to achieve the SDGs**

Tuesday 31 August, 11:10am – 1:15pm GMT +2 (Geneva time)

Closing remarks by ASG Harris

Key messages

- As we start the preparations for convening LDC5, an unprecedented number of countries are graduating from the LDC category. A total of 16 countries are at various stages of the graduation pathway, or have recently graduated from the LDC category, and ten are from the Asia-Pacific region.
- Graduating from the LDC category is, and should be, a course for celebration. It's the result of the hard work of the people of these countries together with bold policy decisions taken by the leaders of these countries. The UN system, as a partner in socio-economic development, congratulates the people of these countries for their achievement.
- While the graduated and the graduating countries have made remarkable progress against social, economic and environmental indicators, further development and attaining of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals are often challenged by their limited productive capacities and lack of technical and administrative capabilities.
- To ensure that graduation from the LDC category is irreversible and is a steppingstone to achieve the SDGs, we need to ensure that adequate smooth transition mechanisms are in place for the phasing out period of the international support measures (ISMs). In addition, we need to ensure that these countries are well equipped to access financing for development at affordable and sustainable cost/rate.
- The UN development system will continue to be a key partner for the LDCs even after graduation. In fact, the member States have instructed the UN development system to remain the key partner for these countries as they navigate their way in the post-graduation landscape.
- One key attribute of that partnership for the next decade will be the UN's support for capacity building in the graduating and graduated countries.
- The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) through its secretariat in DESA has, in the last three years, joined efforts with OHRLLS to design and pilot an LDC Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (SGSF) to support the graduating and graduated countries.

- The SGSF is designed to provide coherent and integrated support, where the graduating and graduated countries can tap into the capacity building support from any UN agency along with other collaborating multilateral and bilateral partners.
- By having this integrated mechanism, the UN development system wishes to make the UN support to be more integrated, strategic, and targeted to facilitate and catalyze accelerated progress in the countries' ability to make more informed decisions in access to finance, benefitting from trade, and in formulating other socio-economic development programmes for achieving the SDGs.
- This will enhance the work of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on LDC graduation established in late 2017, which aims to provide UN system-wide support to graduating countries, in close cooperation with the Resident Coordinators and UN country teams.