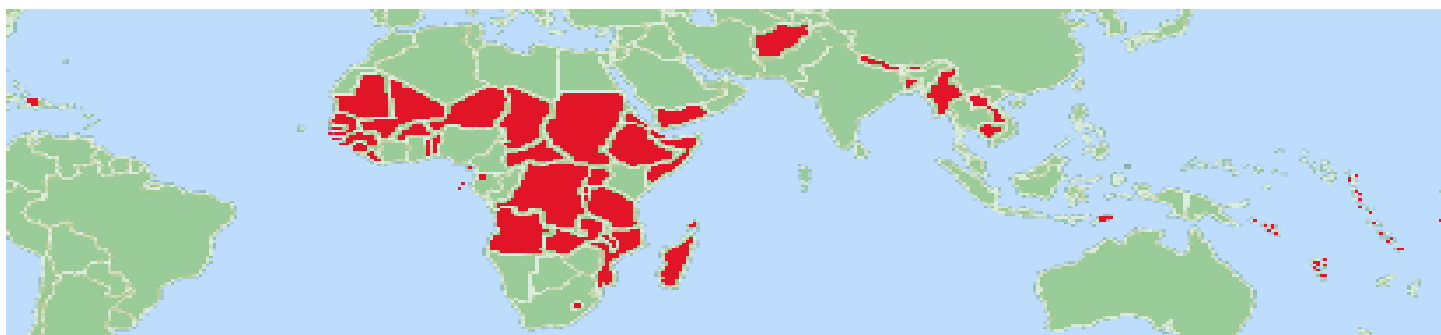




Survey on International Support Measures specific to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) related to Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA)

The Republic of Korea

SUMMARY RESULTS

**prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
and the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) Secretariat***

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A. ODA Commitments and flows

The Programmes of Action for the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) aim at improving human conditions of the population of the LDCs and provide frameworks for partnership between LDCs and their development partners.^a

At the first United Nations Conference on the LDCs in 1981, the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) committed themselves to allocating 0.15 per cent of their total gross national income (GNI) (including funds channelled through international organizations) to LDCs.^b In the 2001 Conference, all donor countries reaffirmed their commitment to make their best efforts to accelerate their endeavours to reach the target. Meanwhile, donor countries that had already met the 0.15 per cent target undertook to reach the 0.20 per cent target promptly.^c

a See [General Assembly, A/CONF.191/13](#), 20 September 2001.

b See [Strengthening International Support Measures for the Least Developed Countries](#), Policy Note, UN/DESA/CDP, August 2010, p.13-14.

c [Goal 28-30, A/61/82](#), p.25.

* This summary was prepared by the DESA/CDP Secretariat, based on the survey response submitted by the Republic of Korea. The content, findings, interpretations, and conclusions as expressed in this summary reflect the views of its authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations or the Republic of Korea. The views presented in this document should not be considered as the official position of the United Nations nor the Republic of Korea.

Country response

The Republic of Korea does not have a specific commitment for LDCs in its ODA allocation.

B. LDC status and ODA priorities

The United Nations Committee for Development (CDP) uses the following criteria to identify LDCs: low-income levels, as determined by GNI per capita; weak human resources, as measured by the Human assets Index (HAI); and high economic vulnerability, as defined by the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI).^d Donors may consider the LDC criteria for establishing ODA priorities and allocation.

^d See the *"Handbook on the Least Developed Country Category: Inclusion, Graduation and Special Support Measures"*; UN/DESA/CDP, 2008.

Country response

The Korean Government has selected 6 LDCs from the OECD-DAC list as priority countries for grant aid. A Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) is published every year for each of these countries, according to which a larger portion of ODA budget may be subsequently allocated. In selecting priority countries, 9 criteria are taken into consideration: the DAC list of ODA recipients, poverty rate, level of governance, Human Development Index, trade volume, foreign direct investment flows, population size, regional allocation, and Republic of Korea's past ODA record.

The Republic of Korea gives priority in its ODA allocation to the following LDCs: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Laos, Senegal, and Tanzania.

C. LDC-specific bilateral support programmes

LDC-specific bilateral support measures can be provided in the form of special funds and programmes, cooperation activities, training activities, and other modalities (excluding WTO-related technical assistance and support to the Integrated Framework for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs, as these are dealt with under a separate survey).

Country response

The Republic of Korea has supported LDC-specific technical cooperation activities on knowledge transfer and experience sharing through training programs, and dispatching of experts and volunteers, etc. for an estimated US\$16.3 million in 2005, US\$21 million in 2006, and US\$27.3 million in 2007. It has also contributed to training activities reserved for LDCs on strengthening capacity in policy-development and decision-making processes in various fields worth of US\$3.1 million in 2005, US\$4.5 million in 2006, and US\$ 7 million in 2007. Furthermore, the Korean Government has earmarked LDC-specific ODA modalities to investment projects, humanitarian aid, support to NGOs and international organizations, provisioning of equipment, etc. Disbursements on these activities amounted US\$12.9 million in 2005, US\$10.4 million in 2006, and US\$25.1 million in 2007.

D. LDC-specific multilateral support measures

Multilateral support measures that are specific for LDCs could be provided through multilateral technical assistance funds, or Trust Funds of international organizations to facilitate the participation of LDCs in international meetings.

Country response

The Republic of Korea has not contributed to LDC-specific multilateral support measures.

E. Graduated and graduating countries: objectives and policies concerning Cape Verde, Maldives and Samoa

The General Assembly resolution 59/209^f of 28 February 2005 on the Smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries urges *"all development partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy and to avoid any abrupt reductions in either ODA or technical assistance provided to the graduated country"*. In the same resolution, the General Assembly

also invites "the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and with the support of the United Nations system, to prepare, during the three-year period, a transition strategy to adjust to the phasing out [...] of the advantages associated with its membership on the list of least developed countries."

Cape Verde graduated from the list of LDCs in 20 December 2007 (A/RES/59/210).

^f See [General Assembly Resolution 59/209](#), 28 February 2005.

Maldives graduated from the list of LDCs in 1 January 2011 (A/RES/59/210 and A/RES/60/33).^g

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions A/RES/59/209 and A/RES/62/97, Samoa was scheduled to graduate from the list in December 2010 but the General Assembly extended the transition period by an additional three years, until 1 January 2014, due to the disruption caused to Samoa by the Pacific Ocean tsunami of 29 September 2009 (A/RES/64/295).

^g Maldives was a graduating country when this survey was taken.

Annex Table 2 describes the Republic of Korea's net bilateral ODA disbursements to Cape Verde.

Country response

The Republic of Korea's ODA policy objective regarding Cape Verde is aimed at supporting activities related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, and adaptation to climate change by sharing its development experience with the country.

Since Cape Verde is not a partner country of the Republic of Korea, measures in line with the recommendations of General Assembly's resolution 59/209 on smooth transition from the LDC category have not been taken. However, the Republic of Korea has not changed its development cooperation policy towards Cape Verde since the country's graduation; and thus, it will not introduce any reduction in its ODA grant element.

The Republic of Korea holds the view that Cape Verde should continue to benefit from LDC-specific programmes for a prolonged period of time after the country's graduation from the LDC category. Thus, programmes that were launched before the country's graduation should be made available to the graduated country for the whole programme predetermined duration. Whereas other programmes with no specific timeframe need to remain applicable to the graduated country for at least one or two years during its phase-out period.

Annex Table 3 describes the Republic of Korea's net bilateral ODA disbursements to Maldives and Samoa.

Country response

As in the case of Cape Verde, the Republic of Korea's ODA policy objective for Maldives or Samoa is aimed at supporting activities related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, and adaptation to climate change. These objectives will not be changed by both countries graduation from the LDC category. The Republic of Korea's ODA is 100% untied for Maldives and Samoa.

As previously mentioned for Cape Verde, the Republic of Korea considers that Maldives and Samoa should continue to benefit from LDC-specific programmes for a prolonged period of time after their graduation from the LDC category. Thus, programmes that were launched before both countries graduation should be made available to the graduated countries for the whole programme predetermined duration. Whereas other programmes with no specific timeframe need to remain applicable to the graduated countries for at least one or two years during their phase-out period.

Table 1: Overview of Republic of Korea's total net ODA flows (bilateral and imputed multilateral flows)

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Net ODA (current US\$, millions)	212.07	264.65	278.78	365.91	423.32	752.32	455.25	696.11	802.34	815.54
Share of ODA flows to LDCs on total ODA (per cent)	28.80	19.30	27.40	30.00	30.20	29.50	29.00	30.20	29.40	30.80
Net ODA to LDCs (percentage of GNI)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03

Table 2: Republic of Korea's net bilateral ODA disbursements to Cape Verde

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Net bilateral ODA (current US\$, millions)	0.02	-	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of grants in gross bilateral ODA (per cent)	100.00	-	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3: Republic of Korea's net bilateral ODA disbursements to Maldives and Samoa

Year		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Maldives	Net bilateral ODA (current US\$, millions)	-	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.06	3.12	0.06	0.12	
	Share of grants in gross bilateral ODA (%)	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Samoa	Net bilateral ODA (current US\$, millions)	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.19	
	Share of grants in gross bilateral ODA (%)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	