



Joint UN Workshop on Preparing for a Smooth Graduation from the LDC Category

Co-organized by:
The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Graduation¹
and the Government of Solomon Islands

17-18 October 2019
Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Annotated Programme

Day 1	17 October
	Master of Ceremony: Mr. Teiba Mamu
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
9:00 – 9:45	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by Honourable Peter Agovaka, Supervising Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands • Welcome remarks by Dr Sevil Huseynova, WHO Representative for the Solomon Islands, on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator • Introductory remarks by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS and Chair of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on LDC Graduation • Introductory remarks by Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Solomon Islands

¹ The United Nations Task Force on Graduation of Least Developed Countries (IATF) is a group of UN entities, which convene twice a year or more often as needed, with the goal to provide strengthened and coordinated UN system-wide support to the countries graduating from the LDC category. The IATF members organizing this workshop are: the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Office of the United Nations Regional Coordinator in Fiji and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Other members will also contribute.

9:45 – 10:00	Group photo and coffee break
10:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 1: Overview of LDC graduation: Costs, benefits and opportunities</p> <p><i>This session will summarize the basic characteristics of LDCs and provide an overview of the graduation process of Solomon Islands, highlighting progress that has been made so far and next steps that need to be taken. An assessment of possible impacts of the graduation of Solomon Islands will be provided and experiences of countries that have already graduated or are further advanced in the process will be shared.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with special needs section, MPFD/ESCAP - Matthias Bruckner, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, CDP Secretariat/DESA - Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Solomon Islands - Jodie Nanuman Kapalu, Desk Officer, UN and Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, Vanuatu - Dentana Mckinnie, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Solomon Islands • Interactive discussion
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Session 2: Improved assistance for graduating countries</p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of support provided by the United Nations and other development partners for graduating countries in order to facilitate smooth transition. It will also provide an opportunity to express the needs for further support.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Berdi Berdiyev, UNDP Country Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS - Namsuk Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, CDP Secretariat/DESA - Mohammed Mozeem, UN Partnerships and Development Finance Specialist, UN Resident Coordinator Office - Samuel Wara, Director, Development Cooperation Division, Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination, Solomon Islands • Interactive discussion
14:00 – 14:15	Coffee break
14:15 – 17:00	<p>Session 3: Access to Finance and Mobilization of Resources during Smooth Transition</p> <p><i>This session will discuss potential effects on bilateral and multilateral concessional finance after graduation. It will elaborate on how to enhance access to finance and mobilization of resources to foster sustainable development during and after the graduation from the LDC category, including all sources of finance: domestic and foreign, public and private.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Susanna Wolf, Senior Programme Officer, OHRLLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthew Johnson-Idan, Development Economist, UNDP - Yusuke Tateno, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP - Abdoulaye Fabregas, Economist, Policy Analysis & Strategy Unit, Financing for Sustainable Development Division, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bram Peters, Programme Manager, Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme, UNCDF - Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, and Member of the UN Committee for Development Policy • Interactive discussion
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Day 2	18 October
08:00 – 9:30	Dedicated breakfast discussion with Private Sector representatives (UN IATF members and SI Government, including Ministry of National Planning & Development Coordination (MNPDC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET), Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) and Ministry of Finance & Treasury (MoFT))
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 4: Trade, Productive Capacity Building and Economic Diversification for Sustainable Graduation</p> <p><i>This session will identify the potential effects of graduation on trade (covering market access for exporters from Solomon Island as well as obligations under the World Trade Organization) and will discuss measures to mitigate any negative effects. It will also elaborate measures to expand productive capacities and promote economic diversification as part of a smooth transition from the LDC category.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with special needs section, MPFD/ESCAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthias Bruckner, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, CDP Secretariat, DESA - Joseph Maahanua, Trade Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands - Atenasi Ata, Chief Executive Officer, Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce (SICCI) • Interactive discussion
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Break out groups on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource Mobilization; 2. Productive Capacity and Trade; 3. Institutional Set-Up.
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch

13:00 – 14:15	<p>Session 5: Reducing Vulnerability and Enhancing Resilience <i>This session focuses on approaches to reduce structural and environmental vulnerabilities and enhance resilience based on the specific characteristics of Solomon Islands.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Margherita Musollino, Programme Management Officer, OHRLLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthew Johnson-Idan, Development Economist, UNDP - Chanel Iroi, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands - Aholotu Palu, PFM Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and GIZ - Elma Morsheda, Infrastructure Specialist, Asian Development Bank • Interactive discussion
14:15-14:30	Coffee break
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 6: Formulating national policies and strategies for a smooth graduation of Solomon Islands <i>This session will draw on lessons from the workshop and will discuss next actions that need to be taken by the government of the Solomon Islands and development partners and what support would be needed. The aim is to prepare a draft roadmap for graduation and smooth transition.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Namsuk Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, CDP Secretariat/DESA - Nelson Ari, ESCAP consultant - Matthew Johnson-Idan, Development Economist, UNDP - Jodie Nanuman Kapalu, Desk Officer, UN and Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, Vanuatu - Ms. Lyn Sidi, Permanent Secretary (Acting), Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination, Solomon Islands • Interactive discussion
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Closing session: Conclusion and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapporteurs from break-out groups • Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS and Chair of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on LDC Graduation • Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Solomon Islands
18:00 – 20:30	Cocktail Reception hosted by the Solomon Islands Government