

GRADUATION FROM LDC CATEGORY

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND*

Smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the LDC category ([A/RES/59/209](#) of 20 December 2004)

Implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the LDC category ([A/RES/65/286](#) of 29 June 2011)

Smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the LDC category ([A/RES/67/221](#) of 21 December 2012)

List is organized chronologically, based on the date of first consideration by the UN Committee for Development Policy.

| COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED FOR GRADUATION | ACTION BY THE CDP | ACTION BY ECOSOC | ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY |
|---|---|---|---|
| BOTSWANA graduated in 1994 | 1991 Revised criteria for inclusion and graduation and identified Botswana for graduation (E/1991/32) 1994 Recommended to be graduated from the list immediately (E/1994/22) | 1994 Decided to transmit the CDP recommendation to the GA for approval (Decision 1994/225 of 15 July 1994) | 1991 Took note of the CDP finding that Botswana be graduated and Decided that its graduation will be completed following a transition period of three years (A/RES/46/206 of 20 December 1991) 1994 Endorsed the CDP recommendation to graduate Botswana from the list with immediate effect (A/RES/49/133 of 19 December 1994) |

**COUNTRIES
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| VANUATU | 1997 | 1997 | 1997 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <p>graduated in Dec 2020</p> | <p>Recommended to be graduated from the list with immediate effect (E/1997/35)</p> <p>2000</p> <p>Noted that Vanuatu fully met only one criterion (pc GDP) and consequently was not now recommended for graduation (E/2000/33)</p> <p>2006</p> <p>Found Vanuatu eligible for graduation for the first time (E/2006/33)</p> <p>2009</p> <p>Reiterated its eligibility but did not recommend Vanuatu for graduation (E/2009/33)</p> <p>2012</p> <p>Recommended for graduation (E/2012/33)</p> | <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation (Decision 1997/223 of 18 July 1997)</p> <p>1998</p> <p>Decided to postpone its consideration until a CDP report on a vulnerability criterion has been submitted (Resolution 1998/39 of 30 July 1998)</p> <p>2012</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Vanuatu be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (E/RES/2012/32 of 27 July 2012)</p> | <p>Decided to postpone its consideration... [pending further examination of the usefulness of a vulnerability criterion for the designation of LDCs] (A/RES/52/210 of 18 December 1997)</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Vanuatu be graduated and decided to provide Vanuatu, on an exceptional basis, with an <u>additional preparatory period of one year</u> before the start of the 3-year preparatory period leading to graduation (A/RES/68/18 of 4 December 2013)</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Decided to extend by an <u>additional 3-year</u> period, until 4 December 2020, the preparatory period, before graduation occurs (A/RES/70/78 of 9 December 2015)</p> <p>2020</p> <p>Invited bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading <u>partners to provide full support</u> to the implementation of the Vanuatu smooth transition strategy, including by extending international support measures, in particular those related to trade, as appropriate, aid for trade and participation in international forums, until 4 December 2025 (A/RES/75/128 of 14 December 2020)</p> |

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ACTION BY ECOSOC

ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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| <p>MALDIVES</p> <p>graduated in 2011</p> | <p>2000</p> <p>Recommended for graduation (E/2000/33)</p> <p>2001</p> <p>Recommended that Council extend the transition period until 2003 before a decision is taken by the GA (E/2001/33)</p> <p>2003</p> <p>Stated that Maldives qualified for graduation (E/2003/33)</p> <p>2009</p> <p>Noted the continued positive development progress of Maldives and reiterated the importance for Maldives to develop a smooth transition strategy with support of development partners (E/2009/33)</p> | <p>2000</p> <p>Decided to defer to its next substantive session and requested CDP to re-examine its recommendation (Resolution 2000/34 of 28 July 2000)</p> <p>2001</p> <p>Decided to extend the transition period until next triennial review in 2003 and requested CDP to continue work on re-examination of its recommendation (Resolution 2001/43 of 24 October 2001)</p> <p>2002</p> <p>Reiterated Resolution 2001/43</p> <p>2003</p> <p>Decided to defer consideration of the question of Maldives to its resumed session (Decision 2003/281 of 24 July 2003)</p> <p>2004</p> <p>Decided to take a decision at its substantive session of 2004 (Resolution 2004/3 of 3 June 2004)</p> <p>Endorsed the recommendation that Maldives be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (Resolution 2004/67 of 5 November 2004)</p> | <p>2004</p> <p>Took note of the CDP recommendation that Maldives be graduated (A/RES/59/210 of 20 December 2004)</p> <p>2005</p> <p>Decided to defer for a <u>period of 3 years</u> until 1 January 2008, the commencement of the 3-year smooth transition period for graduation and underlined the unique nature of this decision due to unprecedented natural disaster (A/RES/60/33 of 30 November 2005)</p> |
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| COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED FOR GRADUATION | ACTION BY THE CDP | ACTION BY ECOSOC | ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY |
|---|---|---|---|
| CABO VERDE graduated in 2007 | 2003 Stated that Cabo Verde qualified for graduation (E/2003/33) | 2003 Decided to defer consideration of the question of Cabo Verde to its resumed session (Decision 2003/281 of 24 July 2003) 2004 Decided to take a decision at its substantive session of 2004 (Resolution 2004/3 of 3 June 2004) and endorsed the recommendation that Cabo Verde be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (Resolution 2004/67 of 5 November 2004) | 2004 Took note of the CDP recommendation that Cabo Verde be graduated (A/RES/59/210 of 20 December 2004) |
| SAMOA graduated in 2014 | 2006 Recommended for graduation (E/2006/33) 2009 Noted the continued positive development progress of Samoa and reiterated the importance for Samoa to develop a smooth transition strategy with support of development partners (E/2009/33) | 2006 Decided to defer to its organizational session (Decision 2006/266 of 15 December 2006) 2007 Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Samoa be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (Resolution 2007/35 of 27 July 2007) | 2007 Took note of ECOSOC decision to endorse CDP recommendation that Samoa be graduated (A/RES/62/97 of 17 December 2007) 2010 Decided to extend by a <u>period of 3 years</u> , until 1 January 2014, the transition period Samoa was benefitting from, until 16 December 2010, before graduation, and underlined the exceptional nature of its decision (A/RES/64/295 of 7 September 2010) |

| COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED FOR GRADUATION | ACTION BY THE CDP | ACTION BY ECOSOC | ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY |
|--|---|--|---|
| EQUATORIAL GUINEA graduated in 2017 | <p>2009 Found it qualified for graduation (E/2009/33)</p> <p>2012 Noted with concern that the GA had not yet taken action (E/2012/33)</p> | <p>2009 Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Equatorial Guinea be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (Resolution 2009/35 of 31 July 2009)</p> <p>2011 Recalled its endorsement of CDP recommendation that Equatorial Guinea be graduated and reiterated its recommendation that the GA take note (Resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011)</p> <p>2012 Recalled its endorsement (made since 2009) of CDP recommendation that Equatorial Guinea be graduated and urged the GA to take note (E/RES/2012/32 of 27 July 2012)</p> | <p>2013 Took note of the ECOSOC endorsement of the CDP recommendation that Equatorial Guinea be graduated and decided to provide it, on an exceptional basis, <u>with additional preparatory period of 6 months</u> before the start of the 3-year preparatory period before graduation (A/RES/68/18 of 4 December 2013)</p> |

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| <p>TUVALU</p> | <p>2012</p> <p>Recommended for graduation (E/2012/33)</p> <p>2018</p> <p>Recommended for graduation</p> <p>Recommended that Tuvalu be placed in the category of extremely vulnerable countries to be accorded specific support (E/2018/33)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Reiterates recommendation to graduate</p> <p>Views an extended preparatory period of five years as necessary for a smooth transition</p> | <p>2012</p> <p>Took note of the CDP recommendation that Tuvalu be graduated and decided to consider this issue at its substantive session of 2013 (E/RES/2012/32 of 27 July 2012)</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Recalled and decided to defer consideration, on exceptional basis, to substantive session of 2015 (E/RES/2013/20 of 24 July 2013)</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Recalled and decided to further defer consideration to substantive session of 2018 (E/RES/2015/11 of 10 June 2015)</p> <p>2018</p> <p>Took note of the CDP recommendation that Tuvalu be placed in a category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks, and decided not to endorse that recommendation, and</p> <p>Further took note of the CDP recommendation that Tuvalu be graduated and decided to defer the consideration of that recommendation to no later than 2021 (E/RES/2018/27 of 24 July 2018)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Recognizing the unprecedented socioeconomic, impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic, decided on an exceptional basis to defer the consideration of the graduation of Tuvalu to 2024 (E/RES/2021/11 of 8 June 2021)</p> | |
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| COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED FOR GRADUATION | ACTION BY THE CDP | ACTION BY ECOSOC | ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>ANGOLA</p> <p><i>Graduation deferred to a later date</i></p> | <p>2015</p> <p>Recommended for graduation based on income-only exception (E/2015/33)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Took note that the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated the overall macroeconomic situation and that GNI per capita had fallen below the graduation threshold of the income-only exception, while passing the regular income threshold. The country had not sufficiently improved in the other two LDC criteria and thus would no longer be eligible to be recommended for graduation (E/2023/33).</p> | <p>2015</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Angola be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (E/RES/2015/11 of 10 June 2015)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Welcomes the ongoing consultations under the enhanced monitoring mechanism between the Government of Angola and the Committee regarding the graduation of Angola [...], and recommends that the General Assembly defer the graduation of Angola to a later date to enable the Committee to consider further the situation of Angola and for the Council to update its recommendation to the Assembly in 2024 (E/RES/2023/10 of 7 June 2023).</p> | <p>2016</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Angola be graduated and decided to provide Angola, on an exceptional basis, with an <u>additional preparatory period of two years</u> before the start of the 3-year preparatory period leading to graduation (A/RES/70/253 of 12 February 2016)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Decided to provide Angola, on an exceptional basis, with an <u>additional preparatory period of three years</u> before its effective date of graduation (A/RES/75/259 of 11 February 2021)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Took note of the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the graduation of Angola from the least developed country category be deferred to a later date to enable the Committee for Development Policy to consider further the situation of Angola and its smooth transition strategy, and for the Council to update its recommendation to the Assembly in 2024</p> <p>Also decided to defer consideration of Angola's graduation to a later date (A/78/L.29 adopted on 18 December 2023)</p> |

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| <p>BHUTAN</p> <p>Graduated in 2023</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Recommended for graduation, found reasonable its request to align graduation date with end of 12th national development plan in 2023 (E/2018/33)</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Bhutan be graduated, noted CDP finding and recommended that the GA take note of recommendation and finding (E/RES/2018/27 of 24 July 2018)</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Bhutan be graduated from the least developed country category, also took note of the CDP's finding, and decided to provide Bhutan, on an exceptional basis, with an <u>additional preparatory period of two years</u> before the start of the 3-year preparatory period leading to graduation</p> <p>(A/RES/73/133 adopted 13 December 2018)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Commended the commitment of Bhutan to graduate from the category of least developed countries on 13 December 2023, and took note of the decision of the Royal Government of Bhutan to integrate its smooth transition strategy into its thirteenth national development plan, to be adopted by February 2024</p> <p>(A/78/L.27 adopted 18 December 2023)</p> |
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| COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED FOR GRADUATION | ACTION BY THE CDP | ACTION BY ECOSOC | ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY |
|--|---|--|---|
| SOLOMON ISLANDS <i>will graduate in 2027</i> | <p>2018</p> <p>Recommended for graduation (E/2018/33)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Found that the country require additional three years given that external shocks had prevented the conduct of wide and inclusive consultations that are essential to prepare a sustainable graduation of the country (E/2023/33)</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Solomon Islands be graduated and recommended that the GA take note (E/RES/2018/27 of 24 July 2018)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Took note of the finding of the Committee [...], and recommends that the General Assembly extend the preparatory period preceding the graduation of Solomon Islands from the least developed country category (E/RES/2023/10 of 7 June 2023)</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Solomon Islands be graduated, and decided to provide Solomon Islands, on an exceptional basis, with an <u>additional preparatory period of three years</u> before the start of the 3-year preparatory period leading to graduation (A/RES/73/133 adopted 13 December 2018)</p> <p>2023</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation and decided, on an exceptional basis, to extend by an additional three years, until 13 December 2027, the preparatory period for Solomon Islands before graduation from the LDC category. (A/77/L.91 adopted on 25 August 2023)</p> |
| SAO TOME & PRINCIPE <i>will graduate in 2024</i> | <p>2018</p> <p>Recommended for graduation, found reasonable its request to postpone its effective graduation date to 2024, so as to enable it to enact necessary internal reforms and align its transition strategy with its national development plan (E/2018/33)</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Sao Tome & Principe be graduated, notes CDP finding and recommended that the GA take note of recommendation and finding (E/RES/2018/27 of 24 July 2018)</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Sao Tome and Principe be graduated, also took note of the CDP's finding, and decided to provide Sao Tome and Principe, on an exceptional basis, with an <u>additional preparatory period of three years</u> before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation (A/RES/73/133 adopted 13 December 2018)</p> |

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|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| KIRIBATI | <p>2018</p> <p>Recommended for graduation</p> <p>Further recommended the creation of a category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks that entitles them to receive support specifically targeting those vulnerabilities (E/2018/33)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Reiterates recommendation to graduate</p> <p>Views an extended preparatory period of five years as necessary for a smooth transition</p> | <p>2018</p> <p>Took note of the CDP recommendation that Kiribati be placed in a category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks, and decided not to endorse that recommendation, and</p> <p>Further took note of the CDP recommendation that Kiribati be graduated and decided to defer the consideration of that recommendation to no later than 2021 (E/RES/2018/27 of 24 July 2018)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Recognizing the unprecedented socioeconomic, impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic, decided on an exceptional basis to defer the consideration of the graduation of Kiribati to 2024 (E/RES/2021/11 of 8 June 2021)</p> | |
| TIMOR-LESTE | <p>2018</p> <p>Deferred decision to the 2021 triennial review (E/2018/33)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Deferred decision to the 2024 triennial review (E/2021/33)</p> | | |

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|---|--|---|---|
| NEPAL <i>will graduate in 2026</i> | <p>2018</p> <p>Deferred decision to the 2021 triennial review (E/2018/33)</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Recommended for graduation</p> <p>Extended preparatory period of five years viewed as necessary for a smooth transition</p> | <p>2021</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Nepal be graduated, noted CDP finding that a five-year preparatory period would be necessary and recommended that the GA take note of recommendation and finding (E/RES/2021/11 of 8 June 2021)</p> | <p>2021</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Nepal be graduated, and decided to provide Nepal, on an exceptional basis, with a <u>five-year preparatory period</u> leading to graduation</p> <p>(A/RES/76/8 adopted 24 November 2021)</p> |
| BANGLADESH <i>will graduate in 2026</i> | <p>2021</p> <p>Recommended for graduation</p> <p>Extended preparatory period of five years viewed as necessary for a smooth transition (E/2021/33)</p> | <p>2021</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Bangladesh be graduated, noted CDP finding that a five-year preparatory period would be necessary and recommended that the GA take note of recommendation and finding (E/RES/2021/11 of 8 June 2021)</p> | <p>2021</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Bangladesh be graduated, and decided to provide Bangladesh, on an exceptional basis, with a <u>five-year preparatory period</u> leading to graduation</p> <p>(A/RES/76/8 adopted 24 November 2021)</p> |
| LAO PDR <i>will graduate in 2026</i> | <p>2021</p> <p>Recommended for graduation</p> <p>Extended preparatory period of five years viewed as necessary for a smooth transition (E/2021/33)</p> | <p>2021</p> <p>Endorsed the CDP recommendation that Lao PDR be graduated, noted CDP finding that a five-year preparatory period would be necessary and recommended that the GA take note of recommendation and finding (E/RES/2021/11 of 8 June 2021)</p> | <p>2021</p> <p>Took note of ECOSOC endorsement of CDP recommendation that Lao PDR be graduated, and decided to provide Lao PDR, on an exceptional basis, with a <u>five-year preparatory period</u> leading to graduation</p> <p>(A/RES/76/8 adopted 24 November 2021)</p> |
| MYANMAR | <p>2021</p> <p>Deferred decision to the 2024 triennial review (E/2021/33)</p> | | |

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| CAMBODIA | 2021 | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| COMOROS | All 5 LDCs were found to have fulfilled the graduation criteria for the first time (E/2021/33) | | |
| DJIBOUTI | | | |
| SENEGAL | | | |
| ZAMBIA | | | |