

CLOSING PLENARY

Revisit the key objectives of the three days south-south-exchange and highlight what was achieved, key takeaways and next steps countries will undertake and support from development and trading partners to be mobilised for the formulation of national Smooth Transitions Strategies by the three countries - Graduating Cohort of 2021.

A. Objective

The objective of the closing plenary is to draw from the presentations and discussions in the eight technical sessions key takeaways and identify pathways for the formulation and implementation of Smooth Transition Strategies by the three countries of the graduating cohort of 2021 and to agree on common advocacy points for UNGA (September 2022), the Fifth UN Conference for LDCs (LDC5) (Doha, March 2023), and other forums. Therefore, the closing plenary will focus on Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Nepal country delegations with the support of the RCOs, OHRLLS, ESCAP and UNDESA agree on the key takeaways, actions and common advocacy points that form part of their joint outcome/advocacy document.

B. Session Outlines and Time Allocated: 1500 – 1630 (100 minutes)

Time	Description	Resource person(s)
10 minutes	Briefly recap on the three days, share some highlights and outline the objective of the closing plenary.	Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR
60 minutes	<p>Agreeing on key messages for joint outcome/advocacy document to be used for common advocacy for UNGA (September 2022), LDC5 (Doha, March 2023), and other forums.</p> <p>A list of key messages from each session held over the three days (drawn from opening remarks, keynote speeches, presentations and panel discussions) will be presented for country delegations' consideration and agreement on the draft outcome/advocacy statement.</p>	Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR
15 minutes	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Heads of Country Delegations will revisit the key objectives of the south-</p>	1. Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

	<p>south-exchange and share 3 to 5 key priorities regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Common challenges of graduation and pathways identified to address them collaboratively in devising the country's national Smooth Transition Strategy. Key international support identified for developing the country's national Smooth Transition Strategy and advocacy plan to be devised. Pertinent and strategic advocacy messages for collective and individual country efforts for effective international support to fully implement national Smooth Transition Strategies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Daovy Vongxay, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal
10 minutes	<p>Closing Remarks Offer some perspectives/specific smooth transition measures for the countries to consider and how the CDP and the IATF can support them through their work and iGRAD - delivered through the UN RC and their offices and the UN Country Teams. How can they garner critical support for the three countries, in terms of the support they have highlighted.</p>	<p>Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Member, United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and Senior Advisor, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) and former Director, Division for Africa, UNCTAD</p>
5 minutes	<p>Officially close the meeting by highlighting how the UN through the RCO and development partners could support the three countries implement their outcome/advocacy document. Thank participants and wish them safe travels.</p>	<p>Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR</p>