

OPENING PLENARY

A. Objective

The objective of the opening plenary is to set the scene for the three-day workshop, hear from the heads of delegations of all three graduating countries' Governments, respective UN Resident Coordinators, and the representatives of UNESCAP, UNOHRLLS, and Member of the Committee for Development Policy.

B. Plenary Outline and Allocated Time: 0900 – 1035 (95 min)

Time	Description	Resource person(s)
3 minutes	Commencement of Workshop: Invites everyone to take their seat and invites the Chair and speakers to take their seat for the start of the workshop and the opening session.	Mr. Matthew Johnson-Idan, Economist, UN RCO Lao PDR
7 minutes	Officially welcome all participants and highlights the objective of the workshop and its importance for the graduating cohort of 2021 and introduces the session and speakers.	Chair: Mr. Roland Mollerus, CDP Secretary and Chief of Development Policy Branch, UNDESA
5 minutes	Welcome Remarks:	Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary- General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States
15 minutes	Remarks from heads of delegations of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Lao PDR: (5 minutes per speaker) It is expected that the three heads of delegations will highlight the importance of the smooth transition strategy (STS) and how their countries are preparing for that. We also expect to hear from them how this workshop would benefit them in devising an STS according to the guidelines provided by the UNDESA.	1. Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh 2. Mr. Daovy Vongxay, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) 3. Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning

		Commission, Government of Nepal
15 minutes	<p>Remarks from UN Resident Coordinators of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Lao PDR:</p> <p>The three Resident Coordinators are expected to highlight how RCOs have collaborated and brought together the three Asia-Pacific countries' Governments in this South-South Exchange, and the importance of a one UN approach in supporting LDCs to sustainably graduate out.</p>	<p>4. Ms. Gwyn Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh</p> <p>5. Mr. Richard Howard, UN Resident Coordinator a.i for Nepal</p> <p>6. Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR</p>
10 minutes	<p>Remarks from ESCAP, OHRLLS and CDP:</p> <p>Expect to highlight the importance of IATF co-leads in devising the STS in accordance with country requirements. The speakers will also highlight the importance of a one UN approach.</p>	<p>7. Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head of South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi, ESCAP</p> <p>8. Ms. Susana Wolf, Senior Programme Manager, OHRLLS</p>
10 minutes	<p>Opening Remarks from CDP: As the main opening remarks to be delivered by the CDP member, could highlight the importance of sustainable and irreversible graduation that requires an STS that is integrated in medium to long-term sustainable development plans.</p>	<p>Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, PhD, 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>
10 minutes	<p>Presentation on the outline of the workshop and key expectations.</p>	<p>RCO Economists:</p> <p>1. Mr. Md. Mazedul Islam of Bangladesh;</p>
20 minutes	<p>Photography: Invite everyone to stand in a designated place for the formal photograph of the event.</p>	<p>2. Mr. Matthew David Johnson-Idan of Lao PDR; and</p> <p>3. Mr. Subhash Nepali of Nepal</p>