



## **Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs**

### **Terms of reference**

#### **Background**

1. The Fifteenth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting of the United Nations system and international organizations on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (IACG on LDCs), held on 3 October 2017 in New York, discussed the issue of supporting the process of graduation from the LDC category, and recommend the establishment of an Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs to develop a workplan to help countries in the graduation pipeline and graduated countries.
2. The Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs is an ad hoc group of UN entities, and convened as needed, with the broad goal of improving coordination support to LDCs that are nearing graduation.
3. The objective of the Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs is to provide strengthened and coordinated UN system-wide support to the countries graduating from the LDC category.

#### **Scope**

4. The activities of the Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs will include:
  - a. Information exchange among UN system agencies on graduation support
  - b. Coordination of activities related to LDC graduation, including scheduling
  - c. Common messaging
  - d. Provision of LDC-specific smooth transition measures (extension of support to graduated LDCs for some time) and additional incentives by the UN system, other development and trading partners and private entities
  - e. Joint activities on:
    - i. identification of problems and solutions facing graduating and graduated LDCs.
    - ii. knowledge sharing among graduating and graduated countries and provision of information to Member States, eg. Gradjet.
    - iii. resource materials to assist countries in the preparation and implementation of smooth transition.
    - iv. developing innovative approaches, including incentives for graduation.
    - v. develop transition benchmarks to monitoring progress towards sustainable graduation.
    - vi. collective inputs to relevant online tools.
    - vii. Integrating graduation and smooth transition into work programmes/development frameworks/UNDAFs.
    - viii. Coordinated support to intergovernmental processes.

## **Working methods**

5. The working methods of the Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs shall be as follows:
  - a. Participation in the Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation is voluntary and open to all members of the IACG on LDCs. UN system entities that have been assigned specific mandates by ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions related to graduation and smooth transitions are encouraged to participate, as well as those that have LDC-specific provisions whose removal are likely to cause significant impact.
  - b. Efforts will be made to minimize costs and greenhouse gas emissions by holding meetings by VTC and back-to-back with other meetings. Costs of staff attendance will in general will be covered by their respective organizations.
  - c. The Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs shall aim to work by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, efforts will be made to ensure that all divergent opinions are reflected in relevant documents.
  - d. The Inter-agency Task Force on Graduation of LDCs may amend these Terms of Reference as needed.

\*\*\*