

Input to the preparations for the next programme of action

organizing framework for achieving the goals and the underlying participatory processes. Moreover, the programme of action should strengthen the means to

concentration of least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the prevalence of conflict and post-conflict situations, and incorporate additional measures that enable the remaining least developed countries to benefit more effectively from the specific support provided. It should also emphasize support to graduating countries. Chapter VIII of the present report contains more detailed observations in this regard.

The Committee stresses the importance of the programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2021–2030 in ensuring that least developed countries are not left behind. The programme of action must reflect recent key trends related to the least developed country category, including the evolution of the composition of the category owing to upcoming graduations and the emergence of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development as the overarching global development

The Committee noted that while some least developed countries are actively embracing graduation, others are concerned about it, often out of uncertainty about its impacts and a fear of losing international support. In the view of the Committee, graduations should be seen as achieving a milestone in development progress, rather than as a threat. Changing the graduation narrative requires not only actions at both the national and the international levels, but also a strengthened graduation process