

2021

Improved assistance for graduating and graduated least developed countries *

The Committee decided to improve the effectiveness of the existing monitoring mechanism, including through a crisis response process, and called upon Member States and the United Nations system to support and endorse the enhancement of the monitoring mechanism in the

responsible for recommending which countries should be placed on the United Nations list of least developed countries (LDCs).

(c) Utilizing the convening power of the United Nations to address issues identified in the course of regular monitoring, for example through the establishment of a dedicated session on the graduation of least developed countries at the Development Cooperation Forum (see below);

(d) Expanding the coverage of monitoring reports prepared by the Secretariat, on the basis of increased cooperation with country focal points, United Nations country teams, United Nations regional commissions and members of the inter-agency task force on graduation of least developed countries, increased

capacity-building in graduating and graduated countries and utilization of virtual meetings on these reports;

(e) Increasing capacity within the Secretariat and other United Nations entities for the analysis and identification of the type of support needed;

(f) Harnessing existing reporting processes to avoid duplication;

(g) Establishing rapporteurs within the Committee for each graduating and recently graduated country.

B. Graduation process improvements

The Committee reviewed the progress in piloting the graduation assessments for the 2021 triennial review. These pilot assessments represent a consolidated United Nations voice and appraisal regarding graduation from the least developed country category and contain a synthesis of the ex-ante impact assessments and vulnerability profiles prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD, respectively; an overall description of the country's development prepared with the involvement of the United Nations country team; and forward-looking elements that could be considered for a smooth transition strategy. After reviewing the pilot graduation assessments prepared for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, the Committee decided that the practice of preparing graduation assessments for least developed countries when first identified for graduation should continue, and further improved the process by setting deadlines for submission of inputs and imposing page limits. It requested the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD to prepare succinct impact assessments and vulnerability profile reports (within the proposed page limits and submission deadlines set by the Committee and its secretariat) to be used for the preparation of the graduation assessments.¹

The Committee discussed the appointment of Committee rapporteurs. Their main role at the 2021 triennial review was to lead the review conducted by the Committee with a view to deciding whether to recommend countries for graduation. The rapporteurs were in charge of reviewing the relevant documentation; identifying and analysing country-specific risks and other important factors that the Committee needed to take into account; keeping the rest of the Committee informed of developments; and presenting the country case at the expert group meeting held in preparation for the triennial review. The Committee found the introduction of rapporteurs to have been very valuable

detailed findings could be posted on the Committee's website and serve as a background document for the Committee, officials at the country level and other stakeholders.