



UN-OHRLLS

Expert Group Meeting on United Nations support for Graduation and Smooth Transition for the LDCs

14 December 2017, CR-11, UNHQ, New York

Final Programme

10 to 10.40 a.m.

Opening

Chaired by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, OHRLLS

Statement by:

- H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Keynote address:

- Prof. Patrick Guillaumont, President, FERDI

10.40 to 11.15 am

Overview of the graduation process: background and future prospects

Presentation by:

- Mr. Roland Mollerus, Chief, Secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy, DESA
- Mr. Keith Nurse, Executive Director, University of the West Indies, CDP Member

This session will provide a description of the graduation process, including identification of countries that meet the criteria for graduation as well as preparations for graduation and smooth transition. It will also provide information on the work of the CDP related to graduation.

11.30 to 1 p.m.

Support by the United Nations system to graduation and smooth transition of the LDCs

Moderated by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS

Presentations by:

- Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD
- Mr. Ayodele Odusola, Chief, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
- Mr. Bartholomew Armah, Chief, Renewal of Planning, ECA
- Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section, ESCAP
- Mr. Daniel Gay, Inter-Regional Advisor, CDP



Representatives from the UN system will share their activities and plans with respect to LDC-specific support for graduating countries as well as their perspectives on possible incentives for graduating and graduated LDCs. Presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion among the participants.

1.15 to 2.45 p.m.

Side-Event organized by the Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations: *Graduating from LDC Category: Lessons from the Maldives in Taking the Big Leap Forward*
Light lunch will be provided

3 to 4.45 p.m.

How can the UN system better support graduating LDCs? Lessons learnt from graduated countries

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations

Presentations by:

- Ms. Mariyam Midfa Naeem, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives
- Mr. Narayan Raj Poudel, Programme Director, National Planning Commission, Nepal
- Ms. Dechen Pelmo, Senior Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan
- Mr. Sandro Trigueiros, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, São Tomé and Príncipe

The session will draw from the experience of representatives of graduated LDCs and the perspectives of those currently embarked upon the process of articulating their smooth transitions strategy.

Representatives from LDCs will share their expectations in relation to the support that the UN system can bring towards supporting countries in the period prior to their graduation and during the smooth transition phase. Presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion among the participants.

4.45 to 5.15 p.m.

Conclusions and recommendations



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Moderated by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS

This session will provide an opportunity to interact on key elements and emerging messages arising from the discussions across the different sections.

5.15 to 5.30 p.m.

Closing Statement by:

- Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, OHRLLS