

How can the UN system better support graduating LDCs? Perspectives from Bhutan

Presented by:

Ms. Dechen Pelmo

Senior Planning Officer

Gross National Happiness Commission

Bhutan's progress towards graduation

- Inclusion-1971
- Found eligible for first time during 2015 triennial review
 - Met thresholds for 2 of 3 criteria
 - GNI USD 2227 (83% above threshold)
 - HAI 67.9 (2.9% above threshold)
 - EVI criteria not met
 - 40.2 against 32 required for graduation
 - No noticeable improvements over the last 2 decades

Main challenges

- Quantifying and understanding full impact of graduation
 - RGOB Assessment Report
 - UNDESA Draft Impact Assessment Report
 - Limited impact on ODA overall
 - Expected to impact access to Climate Funds
 - Full impact of withdrawal of trade related ISMs not quantifiable
- Limited capacity to extract full benefits of ISMs

UN Support & Existing Gaps

- Common platforms for experience sharing
 - Enhance understanding of LDC graduation process among stakeholders
 - Awareness of benefits and implications of graduation
- Existing Gaps
 - Timely country-specific analysis lacking
 - Assessment of use of ISMs over time not carried out
 - Resources spread too thinly – consolidate for high impact
 - UNCO has multiple local implementing partners
 - Reporting procedures demanding

Preparing for Transition

- Develop a forward looking transition strategy
 - Identify critical ISMS that could be leveraged during the transition period
 - Develop technical capacity to implement ISMs
- Focused assistance in accessing currently available funding windows which will no longer be available (eg-Climate Funds)
- Building technical capacity and expertise in field of macroeconomic modelling and projections
- Continuous engagement during transition period
 - Support measures if deterioration along any criteria

Thank You