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

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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
  • RG0B 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