



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

São Tomé and Príncipe's perspective

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Main challenges with respect to preparing for graduation

- Based on an assessment conducted by UNCTAD this year São Tomé & Príncipe fulfill 2 of 3 criteria of graduation, namely :
 - **Criteria 1** : GDP per capita
 - **Criteria 2** : Human CapitalBut doesn't fulfill yet **the Criteria 3** related to economic vulnerability;
- The good performance achieved in human capital (education & health) relied on support from international community and partners;
- State Budget is heavily reliant on foreign aid (more than 90% of the capital comes from Development Public Aid);
- The economic structure of the country is not yet ready to take up all the needs.



STP Government Foresees

- With the graduation from LDC it might significantly impact the mobilization of resources from current partners or donors;
- Global Fund, GAVI, UN agencies, etc. may step down their support which might affect resource mobilization for social and development issues;
- This may need to be factored in when São Tomé and Príncipe graduates from the LDCs for its sustainable development.



What support was provided by the UN System and where are gaps?

- UNCTAD provided in the country an assessment in 2017;
- Based on the assessment, a road map for a smooth graduation was developed for the upcoming years;
- UNCTAD express its availability to support the country in the implementation of the road;
- UNCT (UN Resident agencies in the country) also already express its availability to support the government if needed.



Expected Support by the UN

- Technical Assistance from UN in particular the UNCTAD to implement the Road;
- Support the government to get the Transitional period of 3 to 6 years, request made by our Minister of Finance to ensure an effective preparation of the smooth transition strategy, its implementation, follow up and monitoring;
- Support to maintain a Constant Dialogue with all partners in order to ensure the resource mobilization and not affect the performance achieved for the indicators of human capital. Ex. Malaria eradication, universal primary education, access to maternal health care.



What are the key tools to ensure sustainability of the graduation?

- The current CDP (commission development policies) platform is welcomed and will facilitate the country preparation;
- Guidelines on how to conduct studies or assessment in specific areas of the country can help with several reforms such as: domestic resources mobilization; investing in human resources and technology; promoting connectivity (Cabo Verde); regional integration; etc.



Thank You

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