

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Economic and Social Council
Management Segment

**Presentation of the 2024 Report
of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)
By Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr
Wednesday 5 June 2024**

Excellency,
Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to introduce the Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its 26th Session, held from 4-8 March 2024. We met in person and worked on two broad sets of issues: contribution to the ECOSOC theme; and LDC graduation.

As our **contribution to the ECOSOC theme for 2024**, the Committee decided to explore the challenges and opportunities of an innovation ecosystem to serve development, structural change, and equity.

Excellency,

Technological innovation can be a key driver of sustainable development – it can increase productivity, empower people and promote inclusion, facilitate structural change for LDCs, build resilience against crises. Yet this potential remains vastly under-realized. This holds particularly in developing countries but also for public interest purposes across the world. Harnessing the potential requires an effective innovation ecosystem. Our analysis highlights three issues.

First, governments and international bodies need to reassess policy frameworks and priorities for innovation, not only to address the long-standing gaps of underutilized potential but to respond to the challenges of a new global environment. Trends – such as the rise of financialization and of intangible assets, the advance of the fourth industrial revolution, and demographic shifts, climate change– are transforming the landscape of STI, offering enormous potential. But unless they are harnessed in domestic and global STI policy frameworks, they can work for or against public priorities.

Second, one of the key policy drivers of a functioning ecosystem for development is the management of intellectual property rights. Developing countries require policy frameworks for innovation tailored to their specific priorities. While adhering to their commitments to

international norms, there is considerable scope for making more effective use of the existing policy space to pursue priorities for development, equity and productive capacity. International organizations and bilateral donors can strengthen their support to these efforts to create an enabling environment for developing countries.

Third, the global system in place to support innovation for development needs to be reassessed to be made fit for purpose to ensure innovation for (global and regional) public goods and for countries to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Excellency,

I would like to mention our continued commitment to contributing to the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** process as a tool for learning and exchanging implementation on the SDGs. We have reported on our analysis over the last several years, and on 13 February 2024, we issued a communiqué with a proposal for a new approach – VNR 2.0 – that would be more succinct and more focused on key lessons and give greater attention to the core transformative elements of the 2030 agenda¹.

I now turn to the Committee's work on the **graduation of least developed countries (LDCs)**. This was an important year as we conducted our **triennial review of the list of LDCs**. The review involved a comprehensive assessment based on established LDC criteria, supplementary indicators, country-specific analysis and its consultations with countries concerned. It concluded with a recommendation for graduation of three countries, and deferred its decision on a possible recommendation for graduation of two other countries to the 2027 triennial review. It is our understanding that the Council intends to endorse our recommendations that Cambodia and Senegal graduate. They are to be congratulated to their development progress. We also found three new countries met the graduation criteria for the first time in 2024; and three countries that previously met the criteria but now fail to do so.

The Committee reviewed the progress of seven graduating and recently graduated countries in the context of the **enhanced monitoring mechanism**. While there is consistent progress towards graduation, most of these countries have limited capacity to address the challenges of global crises, geopolitical tensions, and climate change.

These concerns reflect a general trend: global shocks are posing significant challenges to graduating countries and dimming the graduation prospects of all LDCs. This **changing global context** requires updating the existing graduation framework to make it fit for purpose. Current international support to graduation processes is insufficient. The Committee calls for a rapid operationalization of the new Sustainable Graduation Support Facility iGRAD at a scale commensurate with the challenges. It looks forward to contributing to upcoming efforts to update the existing resolutions on smooth transition from the LDC category.

¹ Communiqué: New approach to the voluntary national review process. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/CDP-Communique-VNRs-2024.pdf>.

On the follow-up to the **review of the work of the functional commissions and expert bodies**, the Committee considers its thematic analyses and working methods to be well aligned with the recommendations. It intends to continue to hold briefings and interactive sessions with the Council, and welcomes additional opportunities to engage with the Council, its subsidiary bodies and other stakeholders.

The Committee members feel privileged to contribute to the work of ECOSOC, and look forward to continued collaboration.

I thank you for your kind attention.