

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution E/2024/L.11 entitled "Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-sixth session"

1. This statement is made in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
2. Detailed cost estimates, and their underlying assumptions for the requirements, are provided in the annex to this statement.
3. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution E/2024/L.11, additional programme budget appropriations for the year 2025, amounting to \$389,800 (recurrent) and \$7,600 (non-recurrent) would be requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC adopted during its 2024 session. An additional amount of \$24,600 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, and would also be requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC adopted during its 2024 session, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The recurrent resource requirements, including the two proposed posts costed at continuing rates, would be requested annually from 2026 in the context of the respective proposed programme budget.

Annex

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution E/2024/L.11, the Economic and Social Council would:

Take note of the Committee's finding that the changing global context of LDC graduation increases the demand on the Committee and its secretariat under the enhanced monitoring mechanism, and request the Secretary-General to provide adequate resources to the Committee's secretariat in order to enable an effective engagement between the Committee and participating countries in the enhanced monitoring mechanism;

2. In order to implement the request contained in the draft resolution, additional resource requirements would be required under Section 9, Economic and Social Affairs and Section 36, Staff assessment, beginning in 2025.

Section 9, Economic and social affairs

3. In view of the changing global context of LDC graduation, including an increased risk of backsliding of graduating and graduated countries, as well as the rise in the number of countries becoming eligible for graduation, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) would need to undertake substantial activities to support an increased and effective engagement between the Committee, and the participating countries in the enhanced monitoring mechanism (EMM), including implementing the recommendations of the report of the Committee for Development Policy, E/2024/33 entitled "Committee for Development Policy - Report on the twenty-sixth session". As evidenced in the report E/2024/33, the risk of backsliding of countries already in the graduation process is due to the multiple and widespread effects of recurrent external shocks. There are now 12 countries eligible to be covered by the EMM, with five additional countries having already entered the first stage of the graduation process and expected to be included in the EMM in the coming years, which increases the demands on the Committee and its secretariat. The secretariat for the Committee will therefore undertake the following additional functions:

(a) Service and support the Committee in undertaking more effective and timely consultations with least developed countries participating in the EMM mechanism, inter alia, by organizing and supporting expert group meetings and consultations (both in-country and virtual) undertaking substantive support and analysis, including for preparing required documentation (such as analytical reports on impacts of current domestic and external developments on the preparation for graduation of countries concerned, short country briefs on graduation and development progress) and reports under the enhanced monitoring mechanism;

(b) Support participating countries in preparing for more efficient consultations and improved engagement within the EMM, inter alia, by providing authoritative information on the LDC graduation process, sharing best practices in country participation in the monitoring, and by addressing targeted inquiries about the possible challenges in the progress towards sustainable development following LDC graduation. The support will also enhance the ability of countries to effectively link their participation in the EMM to the development and implementation of their smooth transition strategies; and

(c) In collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices, Regional Commissions, and the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Graduation, promote coherence, coordination and cooperation on the monitoring consultations among UNDS entities.

4. The additional requirements arising from the additional mandate would include post and non-post resources, estimated at \$413,700 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, as detailed in table 1 below.

Post requirements

5. It is estimated that two additional regular budget posts (one P-4 and one P-3) amounting to \$230,600 would be required under Subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy, for the effective engagement between the Committee and participating countries in the enhanced monitoring mechanism to deliver on its mandate, as follows:

(a) Economic Affairs Officer (P-4): The Economic Affairs Officer will be responsible for coordinating and implementing improved consultations with countries graduating and graduated from the LDC category, including the following responsibilities: (i) Plan and direct and provide strategic leadership in the substantive work related to the country consultations of the Committee for Development Policy; (ii) provide substantive input into the preparation of background notes and reports for presentation to the Committee; (iii) lead the technical oversight, preparations and development of the consultations; (iv) upon request, assist countries included in the consultations process with their formulation, and development of possible strategies and actions as an input to the consultations; and (v) provide substantive support and technical advice the Members and countries participating in the consultation process; represent the CDP secretariat at national consultation meetings.

(b) Economic Affairs Officer (P-3): Provide dedicated secretariat and substantive support to the functions and objectives of the Senior Economic Affairs Officer; assist in the implementation of the developed plan of work, and monitor and report progress; in coordination with the Senior Economic Affairs Officer, lead the drafting of resource materials, including analysis of external shocks on development progress in general and graduation prospects in particular, to assist Committee Members in the development of their country-level action plans; support the convening of consultation meetings and to share good practices and successful strategies for the implementation of consultations at the country level; prepare inputs and draft technical documents for international, intergovernmental and expert group meetings of the Committee.

Non-post requirements

6. In addition, non-post requirements estimated at \$166,800 would be required to support the expanded mandates of the secretariat of the Committee as follows:

(a) Experts: a recurrent provision of \$80,000 would cover for:

- Travel of experts (including CDP members and national stakeholders) to visit an estimated 5 countries per year to improve consultations with countries included in the

enhanced monitoring mechanism, as well as for regional consultations (\$40,000);

- One expert group meetings (EGM) per year on the enhanced monitoring mechanism to review and further strengthen its effectiveness (\$40,000);

(b) Travel of staff: a recurrent provision of \$25,000 would cover staff travel in preparation for and support of the expert visits by CDP Members to an estimated five countries per year, to improve consultations with countries included in the enhanced monitoring mechanism;

(c) Contractual services: a recurrent provision of \$53,800 would cover for:

- Core personal computing service and core enterprise applications for the proposed new posts (\$3,800);

- Provision of venues and meeting costs for in-country consultations at an estimated five countries per year, enabling the participation of relevant national stakeholders (\$50,000);

(d) Supplies and materials: a recurrent provision of \$400 would cover the costs of stationery and office supplies for the proposed new posts;

(e) Furniture and equipment: a non-recurrent provision of \$7,600 would cover the acquisition of office automation equipment and communications equipment (\$3,000) and furniture (\$4,600) for the two proposed new posts;

7. The overall resources required for the Department of Economic and social affairs are summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Resource requirements under section 9, Economic and social affairs

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>From 2026</i>
Posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-3)*	230 600	399 100
Experts	80 000	80 000

Travel of staff	25 000	25 000
Contractual services	53 800	53 800
Supplies and materials	400	400
Furniture and equipment**	7 600	-
Total	397 400	558 300

*New posts are costed at 50% for the first year in accordance with current budget methodology.

** Non recurrent

8. An additional amount estimated at \$24,600 for 2025 and \$42,600 for 2026, would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, for 2025, and to be offset by an equivalent under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.