



Statement by H.E. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

25th session of the Committee for Development Policy

New York, 20 February 2023

Distinguished Members of the Committee for Development Policy,
Under-Secretary-General,
Madame Vice-Chair,
Colleagues,

I am pleased to address this opening session of the Committee for Development Policy, at its first in-person plenary since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Economic and Social Council and the membership of the United Nations as a whole greatly value the Committee's expertise and independent thinking as it informs our work and helps us shape UN development policy.

The ECOSOC theme for this year is "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels."

Your contributions to the ECOSOC theme as well as the timely discussions on external debt, just transition and the enhanced monitoring mechanism to better track development progress will also contribute to a more impactful High Level Political Forum and will support the SDG Summit in September. I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of these discussions in the open session that is scheduled to take place during your plenary.

Least Developed Countries- including those who have recently graduated or are in the graduation pipeline- are among the worst affected by multiple crises.

The CDP conducts essential work on the situation of those countries. Identifying least developed countries through a review every three years is a core mandate of the CDP.



I have noted the steps underway in establishing the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility – iGRAD, by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the secretariat for the CDP, and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as Chair of the inter-agency task force on LDC graduation.

This facility will serve as the key hub for the UN’s integrated and coordinated support to graduating and recently graduated countries.

In addition, the mechanism established by the CDP to enhance the monitoring of these countries, including through swift responses to crises, will ensure a smooth and sustainable transition for countries in various stages of the graduation process, currently at 16.

At the same time, we must continue to ensure that LDCs that are not yet in the graduation pipeline receive adequate support for accelerating their progress towards the SDGs.

The CDP’s Triennial Review in 2024 will be a significant and comprehensive stock-taking to guide our reflections on the cumulative impact of multiple crises and challenges. Preparing well for this event, which started this year with the review of the LDC criteria, is important, and even more so, in the context of the upcoming LDC5 Conference which will take place in Doha in less than two weeks.

Colleagues,

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are more crucial than ever in understanding countries’ own stories of progress and challenges.

Your analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews is critical to help Member States finetune the focus of their review. I welcome that you work relentlessly on increasing the impacts of the VNRs, which have been a key achievement of the 2030 Agenda. I commend the work of Professor Sukuda Parr and other CDP Members on this issue.



The review of the work of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, which I led during the 2022 session of the Council, recommended that subsidiary bodies engage more systematically with countries conducting their VNRs.

I commend you for your insightful analysis in this area. It will continue to improve this instrument and help Member States in preparing their voluntary reviews, as well as guiding operational support to countries.

In the context of the follow up to the review and its recommendations, I invite you to reflect on ways in which the work of the Committee can be even more relevant and influential, while also exploring further opportunities of collaboration with other subsidiary bodies and UN system agencies, and present the results of your discussion for Member States' consideration.

I am also looking forward to the dedicated "ECOSOC interaction" at the closing of your plenary on Friday, as it will allow for an open discussion between ECOSOC members and the CDP.

Member States greatly appreciate this opportunity to exchange views with the Committee and it should continue to be a regular feature of CDP plenaries.

In your report to ECOSOC, I invite you to be concise, clearly identifying the main messages requiring attention and action by the Council, so that we can make better use of your expertise and inputs.

I look forward to a fruitful interactive session with the CDP and hope it serves to further strengthen the close dialogue between the CDP and the Council.

Thank you.