

**Statement by H.E. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the United Nations
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

24th Session of the Committee for Development Policy

New York, 21 February 2022
(Virtual meeting)

**Distinguished Chair, and Members of the Committee for Development Policy,
Under-Secretary-General for UN-DESA, Mr. Liu Zhenmin,**

Dear Colleagues,

1. I am pleased to address this opening session of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP).
2. I warmly welcome all of you, more especially the new members.
3. Let me, at the outset, emphasize that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) greatly appreciates your expertise and values your innovative and independent thinking. ECOSOC will continue to rely on your work, in its effort to promote a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-driven recovery during this Decade of Action.

4. This commitment is also captured in the Council's theme for this year: *“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”* Our response to the current crisis must indeed be guided by the objective to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.
5. Implementing the transformative commitments embedded in the 2030 Agenda, and ensuring that policies draw maximum benefits from the interlinkages between the Goals, is a complex endeavour that speaks to the core of the work of the CDP. I therefore look forward to receiving your recommendations regarding the enormous challenge of recovering from COVID-19, particularly in vulnerable countries in special situations.
6. I should also note that your work in relation to monitoring the development progress of graduating and recently graduated Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is important now more than ever.
7. I have therefore noted with keen interest the proposed Enhanced Monitoring Mechanism, which CDP is piloting to improve on the monitoring of progress made by these countries. This initiative will be extremely important to ensure smooth transitions, and it is highly relevant in our current context.
8. In this connection, I look forward to hearing about your discussions on the Draft Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 2022-2031 period, especially with regard to its effective implementation. As a way of enabling effective implementation, the CDP recommendation of a graduation support facility could include a global partnership platform for dedicated capacity development assistance as part of the new programme of action.

Distinguished Chair and Members of the Committee,

9. In addition to your mandate on LDCs, I also commend the CDP on your continued work on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Your analysis of the VNRs presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will further enhance the value of this instrument as a tool to accelerate progress on SDGs implementation and guide the operational support to countries.
10. On Friday, the CDP will also hold an interactive session with the Council, to allow for an open discussion between ECOSOC members and the Committee. I look forward to this session, which has been a practice in the recent past. I see value in establishing such interactions as a regular feature of CDP plenaries, as a way to increase the awareness and engagement of Member States in the work of the Committee.
11. This brings me to my last point, on the ongoing review of the work of subsidiary bodies of the Council -- which is being led by ECOSOC's Vice-President, Ambassador Stoeva (Bulgaria). I am aware that the Vice-President will be making a presentation on this in a subsequent session -- and I am very encouraged by the Committee's embracing of this important process that was mandated by the General Assembly.
12. It is my expectation that your report to ECOSOC, as well as your assessment on the review, will clearly identify the main messages and recommendations that require attention and action by the Council.

13. I believe you would agree that there are benefits to be realized by both the CDP and the Council -- along with the wider United Nations system and the Member States -- from reinforcing the link between the Council and its subsidiary bodies.
14. Strengthening coordination between ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies will enable a more effective utilization of subsidiaries bodies' knowledge, and thus propelling transformative action towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
15. Let me end by wishing you success in your plenary deliberations, and I look forward to your analysis and recommendations.

Thank you.