Preparing for a Smooth Transition

Sharing lessons from how other Asia-Pacific countries are preparing for the graduation, and for the next triennial review

Joint Government-UN Meeting on Myanmar’s LDC Graduation Process

Wednesday, 6 January 2021

Oliver Paddison
Chief
Countries in Special Situations Section
Office of the Executive Secretary
ESCAP

Support to LDCs that have a date to graduate

Vanuatu

• Graduated on 4th December 2020.

• Following a request from the Government, ESCAP had provided technical support to the Government’s National Coordinating Committee to develop Vanuatu Smooth Transition Strategy (STS).

• ESCAP funded in 2019 a study on external financing and domestic resources mobilization in Vanuatu, as the country was selected as one of 3 target countries for a $600,000 project examining how to mobilize more domestic resources for the SDGs.
Support to LDCs that have a date to graduate

**Solomon Islands**
- Set to graduate December 2024.
- ESCAP organized jointly with the UNRC, UNOHRLLS, DESA and UNDP a capacity building workshop to familiarize with LDC graduation implications and to identify necessary actions needed to prepare and implement a smooth transition strategy (STS).
- The country has an export structure that is highly concentrated in wood and is highly vulnerable to external shocks.
  - ESCAP has commissioned a study examining how current policies facilitate Structural Transformation and how the COVID-19 pandemic impact the overall situation.

Support to LDCs that have a date to graduate

**Bhutan**
- Set to graduate December 2023.
- Capacity building support focusing on and assessment of the COVID-19 impact on Bhutan’s sustainable graduation path.
- Provided technical assistance on developing a sovereign bond market in Bhutan.
- Research on implications and policy imperatives of graduation for Bhutan, including on trade performance and WTO accession of Bhutan.
Supporting other LDCs

Capacity building workshops

• Enhancing the capacity of South Asian LDCs to implement SDGs and sustainably graduate from LDCs status

• Graduation from the LDC category organized for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar in December 2020.

• National (Bangladesh), subregional (Pacific) and regional workshops (all LDCs) on Mobilizing resources for sustainable development planned for early 2021

Knowledge products

• Working papers on Implications and policy imperatives of graduation, Review of Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.


• Studies on policies facilitating structural transformation and graduation, taking into account the impact of COVID-19 pandemic (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Timor-Leste)