



General Assembly

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Agenda item 23 (a)

Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Algeria:* draft resolution

Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,² adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, in which Member States committed to assisting the least developed countries with an overarching goal of enabling half of them to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling further its resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011, in which it requested the President of the General Assembly to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

² *Ibid.*, chap. II.



1. *Takes note* of the report of, and work done by, the ad hoc open-ended working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category;³

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,⁴ especially section III on progress towards graduation and smooth transition;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not cause disruption in the development progress which that country has achieved; and in this regard recognizes that the graduation process of least developed countries should be coupled with an appropriate package of incentives and support measures;

4. *Urges* graduating countries and all bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners to pursue or intensify their efforts, consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the full implementation of resolution 59/209, with a view to ensuring the smooth transition of graduating least developed countries;

5. *Invites* development and trading partners of least developed countries to make available information about smooth transition measures, in the areas of financial support, technical assistance and preferential market access, including their time frames, characteristics and modalities;

6. *Emphasizes* that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated by each graduating country under national leadership, involving, as appropriate, all stakeholders of the Istanbul Programme of Action and with the support of the international community, and the national smooth transition strategy should present a comprehensive and coherent set of specific and predictable measures in accordance with the priorities of the graduating country, while taking into account its own specific structural challenges and vulnerabilities as well as its strengths;

7. *Recommends* that the consultative mechanism established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of the associated actions be integrated with other regular consultative processes between the graduating country and its development partners;

8. *Invites* development and trading partners of graduating countries to make efforts so that their bilateral and multilateral strategies and aid programmes fully support the national transition strategy of the respective country;

9. *Invites* graduating and graduated countries to implement the smooth transition strategy as part of their overall development strategy and to incorporate a smooth transition in relevant documents, such as the poverty reduction strategy papers and the action matrix of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies under the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

³ A/67/92.

⁴ A/67/88-E/2012/75 and Corr.1.

10. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to act, if requested, as a facilitator of the consultative process and assist graduating countries in the preparation of their transition strategies;

11. *Requests* United Nations country teams to provide targeted assistance to graduating countries, including capacity-building initiatives in support of the formulation and implementation of the national transition strategy;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance information-sharing and understanding of available least developed country-specific international support measures, their characteristics and modalities and, in this regard, to continue to make available one consolidated source of online information-sharing;

13. *Invites* United Nations entities that have committed to allocating a certain percentage of their resources to least developed countries to consider the extension and gradual phasing out of least developed country-specific support to graduated countries for a fixed period of time in a predictable manner, without prejudice to resources available to least developed countries;

14. *Invites* development and trading partners to include trade-related technical assistance commitments as part of the commitments to be undertaken in the transition strategy, in order to support graduating countries to adjust to the phasing out of trade preferences, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework, Aid for Trade or other instruments;

15. *Invites* all members of the World Trade Organization to extend, through a waiver applicable to any graduated country, the existing special and differential treatment measures and exemptions available to least developed countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

16. *Invites* trading partners that have not established procedures for extending or phasing out preferential market access to express, as a general rule or at the consultative mechanism, their commitment to extend their least developed country-specific preferences, the number of years of the extension and the details concerning the gradual phasing out of the measures;

17. *Invites* least developed country-specific funds of the United Nations system to continue providing technical assistance to graduated countries over a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

18. *Encourages* organizations of the United Nations system to extend voluntary travel benefits to graduated countries for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country;

19. *Decides* that the long-standing benefit of capped contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations that has been made available to the least developed countries will be extended, if requested, to countries graduating from least developed country status for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, without prejudice to the required minimum contribution to the budget of the United Nations;

20. *Invites* the Governments of graduated countries to closely monitor, with the support of the consultative mechanism, the implementation of the transition strategy and to provide concise triennial reports on progress made, covering the

preparation and implementation of national transition strategies, to the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Requests* the Committee for Development Policy to review the progress of graduated countries on a yearly basis for three years and every three years thereafter;

22. *Encourages* graduated countries to provide information to least developed countries on their experiences and lessons learned in the context of graduation with support from the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

23. *Invites* development partners to consider using the criteria used for the identification of least developed countries, in particular those related to economic vulnerability, for allocating official development assistance;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of smooth transition measures, including initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category.
