



General Assembly

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Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/66 of 5 November 2004,

Reconfirming Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/34 of 28 July 2000, 2001/43 of 24 October 2001, 2002/36 of 26 July 2002 and 2004/3 of 3 June 2004,

1. *Re-emphasizes* the need for a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries;

2. *Reconfirms* that graduating from the list of least developed countries should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

3. *Decides* that the process through which to ensure a smooth transition of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries shall unfold as follows:

(a) When the Committee for Development Policy, in its triennial review of the list of least developed countries, identifies a country that meets the criteria for graduation for the first time, it will submit its findings to the Economic and Social Council;

(b) After a country has met the criteria for graduation for the first time, the Secretary-General of the United Nations will invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a vulnerability profile¹ on the identified country to be taken into account by the Committee for Development Policy at its subsequent triennial review;

(c) At the subsequent triennial review undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy, referred to in paragraph 3 (b) above, the qualification for graduation of the country will be reviewed and, if reconfirmed, the Committee will submit a recommendation, in accordance with the established procedures, to the Economic and Social Council;

(d) The Economic and Social Council in turn, will take action on the recommendation of the

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. 1999. Supplement No. 13 (E/1999/33)*, chap. III, para. 123.

Committee for Development Policy at its first substantive session following the triennial review of the Committee and will transmit its decision to the General Assembly;

(e) Three years following the decision of the General Assembly to take note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate a country from the list of least developed countries, graduation will become effective; during the three-year period, the country will remain on the list of least developed countries and will maintain the advantages associated with membership on that list;

4. *Invites* the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and with the support of the United Nations system, to prepare, during the three-year period, a transition strategy to adjust to the phasing out, over a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, of the advantages associated with its membership on the list of least-developed countries and to identify actions to be taken by the graduating country and its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners to that end;

5. *Recommends* that the graduating country establish, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, a consultative mechanism to facilitate the preparation of the- transition strategy- and the identification of the associated actions;

6. *Requests* the Administrator of the Unit