

**UN-OHRLLS and Ferdi side event: Graduation and differentiation with regard to vulnerability and fragility  
(21 May)**

- **10 of the 12 LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region were found eligible for graduation in March 2018 by the Committee for Development Policy. This is a significant milestone for the region. In the 47 years of the LDC category's history, and out of 53 LDCs to have existed, only five countries have graduated.**
- **LDCs' face a dilemma. Graduation could bring about new challenges as countries lose eligibility for some of the LDC-specific international support measures such as concessional finance and preferential market access for exports.**
- **A transition strategy is needed to address specific vulnerabilities and mitigate any adverse consequences of graduation. LDCs need to develop more forward-looking economic policies, financing for development strategies and institutional arrangements to minimize negative impacts of reduced market access and unexpected external shocks.**