

Looking to LDC V: A Critical Reflection by the *LDC IV Monitor*

A Commonwealth Commission on LDC Trade Related Issues

29 January 2019, 9:00am-5:00pm

Marlborough House, London

Introduction

The LDC IV Monitor is an independent monitoring organisation comprised of international organisations and Southern based think-tanks. It was established in 2011 to assess and monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (UN LDC IV).¹ A major objective of the LDC IV IPoA is to achieve by 2020 a halving of the number of LDCs from 49 2010² to around 26 by 2020. LDCs are home to about a billion people but account for less than two per cent of the world's gross domestic product and about one per cent of global trade in goods. Whilst an unprecedented number of LDCs are likely to exit the LDC category over the coming years³, between 5 to 12, major challenges remain in view of the 'Africanisation' of the LDC group in the future and the appropriateness of current international support mechanisms.

As 2020 begins and the end of the LDC IV process transpires, the partnership established under the LDC IV Monitor seeks to: 1. Undertake an independent assessment of the progress made to date; and, 2. Assess future prospects to 2030 and the priorities of the LDC V process. Towards this objective, it will convene a London meeting to explore these issues as part of a broader Commonwealth Commission on LDC Trade Related Issues and advancement of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

The objective of this meeting is therefore as follows: (i) plan for the production of knowledge outputs; (ii) plan for the organisation of and participation in outreach events; (iii) developing a strategy for aligning our work with the official preparation for LDC V; and (iv) coming out with a schedule for publication of our outputs.

¹ See LDC IV Monitor (2011) available at: https://read.thecommonwealth-ilibrary.org/commonwealth/trade/istanbul-programme-of-action-for-the-ldcs-2011-2020_9781848599130-en#page1

² UNCTAD (2010) The Least Developed Countries Report (https://unctad.org/en/Docs/ldc2010_en.pdf).

³ Vanuatu will graduate in December 2020 and Angola in February 2021. Bhutan will leave in 2023. Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands are scheduled to graduate in 2024. Seven other countries, all in the Asia-Pacific region, have met the criteria for graduation at least once and are on track to leave in the coming years (<https://www.gradjet.org/faq-on-ldc-graduation/>).



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Agenda

9:00am - 9:30am	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME REFRESHMENTS
9:30am- 10:00am	<p>OPENING REMARKS AND SCENE SETTING</p> <p>Chair: Brendan Vickers, Head of International Trade Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodie Keane, Economic Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat • Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair, LDC IV Monitor • H.E. Mr John Licht, Vanuatu Ambassador to EU • Susanna Wolf, Deputy Chief, OHRLLS • Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre
10:00am -11:00am	<p>TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATED CHALLENGES: A DIAGNOSTIC LOOKING TOWARDS LDC V</p> <p>Chair: Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre</p> <p>Presentation on <i>Institutional Support for Graduating Least Developed Countries</i>, Mustafizur Rahman, CPD, Bangladesh</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Borgatti, Least Developed Country Division, UNCTAD • Michael Roberts, Aid for Trade Coordinator, WTO • Susanna Wolf, Deputy Chief, OHRLLS
11:00am -11:30am	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:30am - 1:00pm	<p>LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS OF SUPPORTING GRADUATING LDCS AND GRADUATED COUNTRIES</p> <p>Chair: Patrick Guillaumont, President, FERDI</p> <p>Presentation on <i>Reflections on the Process of the UN CDP Regarding Graduation</i>, Daniel Gay</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annette Ssmuwemba, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework, WTO Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair, LDC IV Monitor and UN-CDP Member
1:00pm - 2:00pm	LUNCH
2:00pm - 4:00pm	<p>LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021 IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND SDGS: THE AGENDA FOR RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Opening remarks and scene setting by LDC IV Monitor Chair</p> <p>Discussant: Patrick Guillaumont, President, FERDI</p> <p>Intervention by Matthias Bruckner CDP</p> <p>Open discussion moderated by Commonwealth Secretariat</p>
4:00pm - 4:30pm	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
4:40pm - 5:00pm	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>Chair: Brendan Vickers, Head of International Trade Policy, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Commonwealth Secretariat: Summary of proceedings</p> <p>Concluding remarks by LDC IV Monitor Chair</p> <p>Endorsement of the Statement by the participants</p>