



## COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva  
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Knowledge Development Branch  
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

### **LDCs' structural transformation in times of COVID: from boom-and-bust cycles to creative destruction**

Tuesday, 16 November 2021  
Delivered by the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries, and Special Programmes,  
UNCTAD

#### **PROGRAMME**

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XIX
10:00 - 10:15	<p>Welcome address, Mr. Akiwumi, Director, the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries, and Special Programmes, UNCTAD</p> <p>Short course will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer / OIC, Policy Capacity Building Section</p>	
10:15 - 11:15	<p><b>Session 1</b></p> <p>The first session provides an up-to-date assessment of LDC trends in terms of economic growth and structural transformation, contextualizing it in light of the emerging digitalization and servicification. It will also outline the impact of COVID-19 on LDC productive capacities and potential output on the medium term, highlighting worrying developments but also concrete examples of companies adapting to the downturn in innovative ways such as accelerated technological adoption and business diversification.</p> <p>Presented by Mr. Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer; Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	
11:15 - 12:00	<p><b>Session 2</b></p> <p>The second session will be devoted to the policy priorities for LDCs to emerge from the ongoing health economic and environmental crises. It will focus on the importance of fostering a broad-based recovery by developing domestic productive capacities and spur structural transformation. The session will also explore the opportunities emanating from international cooperation, notably on issues related to LDC access to development finance, and key priorities for the UN-LDC V Conference.</p> <p>Presented by Mr. Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer; Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	

## **LDCs' structural transformation in times of COVID: from boom-and-bust cycles to creative destruction**

The course will focus on the structural transformation of least developed countries and how the COVID-19 global pandemic impacted the processes involved and have further reduced both the fiscal and policy space, in addition to partly reversing the progress previously made towards the SDGs. At the same time, there are still opportunities that would emanate from international cooperation and consensus, including debt relief, among other aspects, for LDCs to emerge from these economic crises and eventually graduate.

In this context the short course will be structured around three main blocks: 1) provide an up-to-date assessment of LDC trends in terms of economic growth and structural transformation, contextualizing it in light of the emerging digitalization and servicification; 2) Outline the impact of COVID-19 on LDC productive capacities and potential output on the medium term; and 3) highlight concrete examples of companies adapting to the downturn in innovative ways (accelerated technological adoption, business diversification, etc.), discussing the main drivers of this process and their relationship with the incipient signs of structural transformation, that were taking place in several Asian and African LDCs prior to the crisis.