



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

Least developed countries: Development challenges and policies in the 2020s

Tuesday, 3 May 2022

Delivered by the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes,
UNCTAD

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XXIV
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome address, Ms. Geneviève Féraud, Head, Knowledge Development Branch, DTL The short course will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Economic Affairs Officer / Chief, Policy Capacity-Building Section	
10:15 - 11:30	Session 1 The first session provides an overall picture of the major development challenges of the least developed countries in the 2020s, including the lingering structural vulnerabilities typical of least developed country underdevelopment, the emerging challenges such as the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the acceleration of climate change, the restructuring of global value chains, and digital transformation. Presented by Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section; Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD Q&A	
11:30 - 13:00	Session 2 The second session will discuss how topics addressed in the first session interact with the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031, adopted by the international community in March 2022. Additionally, the policy priorities for least developed countries, in view of the implementation of the new Programme of Action will be discussed at length. Presented by Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section; Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD Q&A	

Least developed countries: Development challenges and policies in the 2020s

The international community in March 2022 adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031. It should provide a framework for policy action on least developed country development during the 2020s, to be implemented both by the least developed countries themselves and by LDC development partners. The course will analyse the priorities set out in the new Programme of Action, compare it with the Sustainable Development Goals and evaluate its likely contribution to LDCs' weathering their current and emerging development challenges.

The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Provide an overall picture of the major development challenges of the least developed countries in the 2020s. These challenges include: (a) the lingering structural vulnerabilities typical of least developed country underdevelopment; and (b) emerging challenges such as the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the acceleration of climate change, the restructuring of global value chains, and digital transformation.
- Critically analyse the likely contribution of the new Programme of Action to LDCs' weathering the major challenges with which they will be confronted in the present decade.
- Provide a clear picture of the policy priorities for least developed countries, in view of the process of negotiation and adoption of the new Programme of Action.