

Assessing the progress of LDCs towards SDGs

Friday, 13 April 2018

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

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

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XXVI
10:00 - 10:05	<p>Welcome address by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, DTL</p> <p><i>The sessions will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Project Coordinator, Policy Capacity Building Section</i></p>	
10:05 - 11:35	<p>Session 1 This session will start from the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development – and its Sustainable Development Goals – and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (IPoA) and will focus on how LDC economies have performed recently in terms of their growth and trade goals. It will then discuss trends in international financing of LDC economies and the impact of current developments in the world economy for the outlook for LDCs' economic performance.</p> <p><i>Presented by Mr. Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer, LDC Section, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes</i></p> <p>Q&A session</p>	
11.35 – 12.15	<p>Session 2 An unprecedented number of countries will soon be recommended for graduation from LDC status and some further countries are likely to graduate in the medium term. This session will discuss the consequences of these graduation cases for: i. the composition of the LDC group; ii. the attainment and measurement of international development goals; and iii. the policies put in place to reach these goals.</p> <p><i>Presented by Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes</i></p> <p>Q&A session</p> <p>Closing</p>	

Assessing the progress of the least developed countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The international community has adopted several development goals specific to LDCs, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – and its Sustainable Development Goals – and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. Progress towards these goals should be measured to evaluate the adequacy of domestic and international frameworks and policy actions in their pursuit, and possibly consider the need for adjustments in the course of action.

To assist the international community in assessing the progress of LDCs in achieving selected international development goals, UNCTAD undertakes research and analytical work in its areas of competence and mandate. In particular, it tracks development targets related to economic growth, trade and financing for development.

This short course will explore the following issues:

- Recent performance of LDC economies: their growth and trade goals
- Trends in international financing of LDC economies
- Impact of current developments in the world economy on the outlook of the economic performance of LDCs
- How the future graduation of a number of LDCs is likely to affect the development goals of LDCs.

Mr. Giovanni Valensisi is a Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, where he is part of the team in charge of the yearly Least Developed Countries Report. A development economist with ten years of international experience, prior to his current position Mr Valensisi worked on regional and multilateral trade negotiation issues at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa - Ethiopia), and carried out various assignments for UNCTAD, UNDP-Syria and several international NGOs (in Switzerland, Italy, Guatemala and Ecuador). He holds a MSc in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from the Toulouse School of Economics, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pavia, where he was also Research Fellow. Mr Valensisi has published several peer-reviewed articles on trade and development issues in Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Rolf Traeger has been working since 1991 as an economist for the United Nations, mainly at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). There, since 2014 he has been the Chief of the LDC Section and lead author of the organization's *Least Developed Countries Report*, which he has co-authored since 2007. In 1999-2006 he worked at the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), where he co-authored its *Economic Survey of Europe*. His main research areas include: development strategies and policies, structural transformation, poverty, science, technology and innovation, international trade, capital flows and economic geography. He has a PhD in economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and a MSE from the University of Lausanne (both in Switzerland).