



Remarks

by

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at

Session 10

Thematic Review: Eradicating Poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: How it affects countries in special situations: LDCs and LLDCs

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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agenda 2030 calls for leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first.

The LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs comprise 91 of the most vulnerable countries, with a combined population in excess of 1 billion people. For many of them, key socio-economic indicators have exhibited only slow improvement over time. In 2015, an assessment at the conclusion of the MDGs found that, despite headway on some of the goals, the gap between these countries and the rest of the world had widened. These countries have the greatest amount of “unfinished business” of the MDGs. Their marginalization is also reflected in their minuscule shares in world trade, global FDI flows, and contributions to new technological innovations. They exhibit a high degree of intersection of development challenges with conflict, humanitarian crisis and climate change.

Promoting sustainable economic growth and development, poverty eradication and resilience-building is therefore critical to the prevention of conflicts and humanitarian crises. While these nations face many common challenges, a differentiated approach is needed since specific issues stand out for each group.

While the LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs struggled to achieve the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda is broader in scope and goes further, with ambitions to address inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs,

cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice. However, these countries face severe constraints in implementing the Agenda owing to limited capacity, high risk perception, ODA dependence, and high vulnerability to shocks and climate change.

The 91 most vulnerable countries are already the farthest behind. Stepped-up efforts by the international community will be a prerequisite to help them attain the SDGs, and to implement their respective Programmes of Action.

Development partners are encouraged to increase their ODA contributions to these countries, which have fallen over the past year in real terms.

In order to strengthen resilience, the funding available for adaptation projects needs to be increased, especially for the Least Developed Countries Fund under the UNFCCC which urgently needs replenishment.

Adaptation efforts need to go beyond projects on capacity building and institutional strengthening and move towards activities that result in concrete gains in terms of reduced vulnerability.

And finally, systematic efforts need to be made to strengthen the absorption capacity of these countries as part of the overall funding to facilitate the preparation and submission of bankable proposals.

Thank you.
