

Input on LDC issue on behalf of MGoS_APRCEM_K M Enamul Hoque

Thank you, Chair.

I am K M Enamul Hoque, from CAMPE Bangladesh representing APRCEM here.

COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the already weak economic base of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The pandemic has amplified multidimensional crises reversing decades-long progress on various SDGs. In many countries, for instance, the closure of schools has led to mental stress and learning loss combined with other factors including risk of out-of-school children, child labor, and early & child marriages.

Many LDCs also face severe challenges on SDG 16. Most visibly, in Myanmar, where the junta government since Feb 2021 has killed 900 citizens, has detained over 5000 persons, has displaced over 200 000 people, and could push over 3.4 million people into hunger. The situation requires strong multilateral resolve to apply sanctions as well as prohibit arms supply to the authoritarian regime brutalizing its own people.

Combined with COVID crises, the shrinking ODA flows, decreasing remittances, increasing debt to GDP ratio, and gradual decrease incentive under the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) has impacted access to essential services, medication and vaccines, and technology transfer to LDCs. There is an urgent need to mobilize substantive support from the Global North to enable the development and provision of diagnostic services and treatments ensuring vaccine equity for all.

The decade of action and delivery requires redress of systemic issues like debt distress, corporate capture, illicit financial flows, tax evasions, neoliberal ISDS, and support LDCs through stronger accountability on ODA and CBDR RC commitments for enhanced COVID recovery and sustainable development.

Thank you!

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