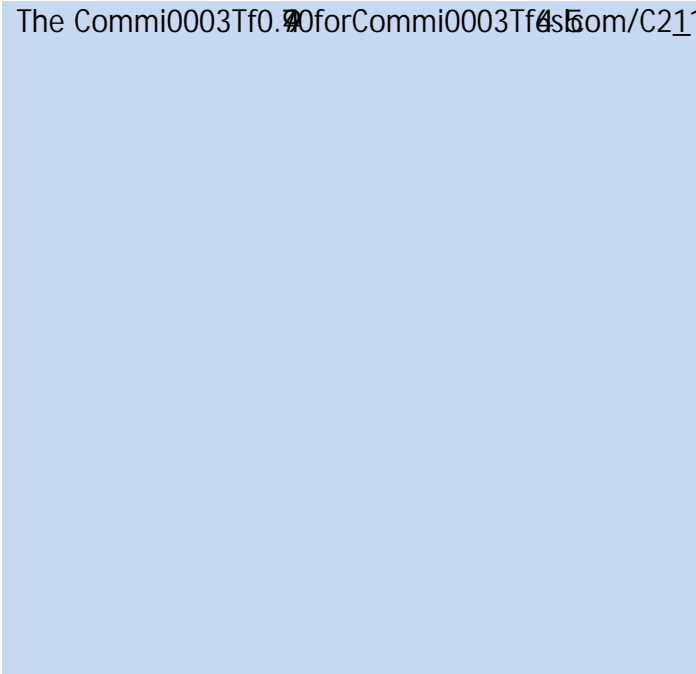


2018

Towards improved assistance for graduating least developed countries *

The Committee for Development Cooperation/C211Tf



The Committee noted that (a) incentives for graduation should be distinct from smooth transition measures, in that they are not related to least developed country specific support received as a least developed country; (b) they should include measures to further assist the countries that reach the graduation criteria as well as graduating and graduated countries, to provide additional support; and (c) any incentives package should focus on production transformation and be demand driven and country specific.

Among the proposals for incentives discussed, the Committee expressed support for the idea of a pledging conference to be organized at the time of graduation. It was recommended to carefully plan such events and include international organizations as well as targeted bilateral donors, country level organizations of the United Nations system, including the resident coordinator system, and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council. The importance of facilitating private sector investments was also underscored.

In addition, the Committee endorsed the proposals to conduct early impact assessments, which should include research and analysis on incentives and production transformation measures for graduating countries, and to organize workshops with investment and credit rating agencies.

In line with General Assembly resolution 67/221, the Committee reiterated the importance of developing a comprehensive smooth transition strategy by the graduating countries through a consultative process, and for the countries to participate in the related follow up monitoring process.

The Committee noted the importance for graduating and graduated countries to have continued access to markets and access to finance. The United Nations system could assist graduating countries by cataloguing the available sources of concessional funding and supporting access to private capital and investment, and in strengthening local capital markets.

The Committee decided to establish a subgroup on incentives for graduating least developed countries to further discuss the preceding ideas and submit a proposal on elements of an incentives package at the next plenary session of the Committee. The Committee noted that the package could also serve as an input into various intergovernmental processes, such as the new 10 year programme of action for least developed countries for the decade 2021–2030.

The Committee requested the inter agency task force on graduation of least developed countries to keep the subgroup informed regarding any discussions and conclusions related to incentives for graduating least developed countries.

The Committee recalled that despite the cataloguing of all international support measures through its Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries, many countries preparing for graduation still face challenges in fully understanding the type of least developed country specific support from which they benefit and the policy implications of the possible loss of such support after graduation. Ner

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