

## South-South Exchange on Preparing Smooth Transition Strategies:



# A. Preparatory Guidance



Succinct and articulate speeches, presentations, ideas, comments or questions are encouraged, to ensure that the entire event from the opening to the closing plenary, is invigorating, thought provoking, solutions-focused, inspirational and memorable.

Long statements that are simply read out, are to be avoided.

Time management is key for a successful event. All sessions will start on time and participants are encouraged to arrive on time. When taking the floor, participants including resource persons are kindly asked to keep to the time allocated, so as to allow everyone an opportunity to engage and contribute.

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1. Smooth Transition Strategy Guidance Note (STS GN): [STS-GN](#)
2. Impa:

**1. STS  
Approach and  
Process**

**Technical Session 1:**  
Sustainable Graduation -  
Investing in People and  
Leaving No One Behind

Ms. Mereseini  
Bower  
Inter-

	<b>Closing Plenary:</b>	Mr. Subhash Nepali, Economist/SDG Adviser, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Nepal	<a href="mailto:subhash.nepali@un.org">subhash.nepali@un.org</a>
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coordinated by respective Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) in-country and the UN Inter Agency Task Force on LDC Graduation (IATF) at the global level.

There are several challenges and opportunities that would arise out of graduation and graduating countries can benefit by enhancing collaboration between each other during the preparation stages. Since Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Nepal – the graduating cohort of 2021, are all from the Asia region, there are areas of common interest where particular focus and actions would be required while developing the STS.

In this context, the UN through iGRAD (Sustainable Graduation Support Facility), a country-led, partnership-based global platform offered through the IATF is providing integrated capacity building support to Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Nepal to ensure smooth transition and sustainable graduation. This South-South-Exchange workshop is one of the many modalities being offered via iGRAD through the IATF. This initiative workshop combines specific service offered under iGRAD Service Offering Lines (SOLs) 3 and 5. It is expected to re-energize the

#### D. Format of the event:

The event is structured across eight technical sessions under three main sections.

It will primarily be in-person, but arrangements will be made for online participation for speakers and presenters only.

Speakers, presenters, and potential participants are indicated in the proposed agenda items.

#### E. Contacts:

Ms. Mereseini Bower, Inter-regional Adviser, UNDESA; [mereseini.bower@un.org](mailto:mereseini.bower@un.org);

Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, UNESCAP, [paddison@un.org](mailto:paddison@un.org);

Ms. Susana Wolf, Senior Programme Management Officer, LDC Unit, UNOHRRLLS, [wolf1@un.org](mailto:wolf1@un.org);

Mr. Md. Mazedul Islam, Development Coordination Officer/Economist, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, **Bangladesh**; [mazedul.islam@un.org](mailto:mazedul.islam@un.org);

Mr. Matthew Johnson-Idan, Senior Economist, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, **Lao PDR**; [matthew.johnson-idan@un.org](mailto:matthew.johnson-idan@un.org);

Mr. Subhash Nepali, Economist/SDG Adviser, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, **Nepal**; [subhash.nepali@un.org](mailto:subhash.nepali@un.org);

#### F. Tentative agenda:

Date	Time	Description
Tuesday 23 August 2022	0900 – 1035 hrs.	<p><b>Opening Plenary:</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Roland Mollerus, CDP Secretary and Chief Development Policy Branch, UNDESA</p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States</p> <p><b>Remarks from Heads of Country Delegations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh</li><li>Mr. Daovy Vongxay, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Lao PDR</li><li>Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</li></ol> <p><b>Remarks from the United Nations Resident Coordinators:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr. Richard Howard, UN Resident Coordinator ai, Nepal</li><li>Ms. Gwyn Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator, Bangladesh</li></ol>



	<p>their STS and to make any necessary adjustments to incorporate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. STS is about preparing a country beyond graduation and towards achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda and SDGs - ensuring those most affected by the implications of graduation are not left behind</li> <li>b. STS key elements and measures include response and recovery from evolving external shocks and are integrated in a country's macroeconomic framework.</li> <li>c. A country's graduation process is inclusive and meaningfully engages a wide spectrum of stakeholders and voices in formulating, drafting, and validating the STS.</li> </ul>
1310 – 1400 hrs.	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>SECTION 2: IMPACTS OF GRADUATION AND SMOOTH TRANSITION MEASURES</b>	
1400 –	

		<p>benefit through joint efforts and advocacy collectively as the graduating cohort of 2021 and targeted support under iGRAD.</p> <p>It will promote the need for the three countries to each develop a time-bound and action-oriented strategy for market access including preferential market access and the role of trade agreements and regional instruments, under the STS, whereby the benefits of trade help reduce poverty, are inclusive and improve the living standards for all.</p>
	1600 hrs onwards	<b>Tea/coffee. End of Day-1.</b>
Wednesday 24 August 2022	0900 – 1040 hrs.	<p><b><u>Technical Session 3: Product and Market Diversification in the Context of LDC Graduation</u></b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Richard Howard, UN Resident Coordinator ai, Nepal</p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Member of the Committee for Development Policy for the United Nations (CDP) and Senior Advisor, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) and former Director, Division for Africa, UNCTAD</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Cecilia Heuser, Market Analyst, International Trade Centre</li> <li>2. Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, WTO Enhanced Integrated Framework (<i>virtual</i>)</li> </ol> <p>The primary objective of the session is for the graduating cohort of 2021 in recognizing their heterogeneity: learn from each other and global best practices on diversifying products and markets and increasing competitiveness for export; discuss their comparative advantages; identify areas of potential duplication and actions to avoid it; and to discuss potential areas of collaboration during smooth transition.</p>
	1040 – 1100 hrs.	<b>Break/refreshment &amp; networking</b>





		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office, UNEP</li> <li>2. Dr. Joyashree Roy, IPCC Lead Author and Inaugural Bangabandhu Chair Professor and Director of centre on SMARTS at Asian Institute of Technology</li> <li>3. Dr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute</li> </ol> <p>The session is aimed at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Articulating the needs, and challenges of the three graduating LDCs on climate action (adaptation and mitigation) such as climate finance, capacity building and technology needs; and</li> <li>b. Defining the parameters of two strategies (collective negotiation and national economic policy) to address them, once the international support measures for LDCs are no longer available.</li> </ol>
	1520 hrs	<b>Tea/coffee.</b>
	1715 hrs	<b>End of Day-2.</b>
Thursday; 25 August 2022	0900 – 1030 hrs.	<p><b>Technical session 6: <u>Effective Management of Development Finance during Graduation</u></b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR</p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Ms. Radhika Lal, SDG Finance Policy Advisor, UNDP (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>In this session, the LDC graduating countries will discuss their common plans for INFF with the aim of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Bringing out specific policy recommendations on INFF for LDC graduating countries.</li> <li>b. Identifying specific measures (including international support where relevant) that could support the implementation of the INFF approach to manage a smooth transition.</li> </ol>
	1030 – 1100 hrs.	<b>Break/refreshment &amp; networking</b>
	1100 – 1230 hrs.	<p><b>Technical session 7: <u>Domestic Resource Mobilization</u></b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR</p>





# **C. Plenary and Session Notes**

## **OPENING PLENARY**

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### **A. Objective**

The objective of the opening plenary is to set the scene for the three-day



### C. Background

Graduation marks a definitive point in an LDC's development journey where it shifts from economic dependence and reliance on the LDC-specific international support measures (ISMs) to self-reliance. It symbolizes that an LDC has risen sufficiently from relying on external support for addressing low income and limited economic growth, commodity dependence thus vulnerability to exogenous shocks and weak productive bases and limited export diversification resulting in high import content in consumption and production and persistent current account deficits.

To ensure graduation is sustainable and irreversible, a starting point is that graduating countries fully understand the impact of graduation and the vulnerabilities that will linger beyond graduation, who are likely to be most affected and to identify what specific measures will be required to minimize the impact and leave no one behind.

A review of existing national and relevant sector plans would help a country ascertain what number of these measures should be considered by graduating countries when preparing their national smooth transition strategy (STS) that is integrated in countries' broader and long-term development and financing framework.

A national STS that provides a coherent set of specific and predictable measures that are systematically implemented is the basis for a successful transition

- a. STS is about preparing a country beyond graduation and towards achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda and SDGs - ensuring those most affected by the implications of graduation are not left behind
- b. STS key elements and measures include response to and recovery from evolving external shocks and are integrated in a country's macroeconomic framework.
- c. Countries' graduation process is inclusive and meaningfully engages a wide spectrum of stakeholders and voices in formulating, drafting and validating the STS.

#### **E. Guiding Questions**

1. What approach and process has the country considered and adopted to ensure the national STS is integrated with national plans to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals?
2. How is the country ensuring that its STS includes measures to address that those considered most affected by the implications of graduation are not left behind?
3. Is the country's STS framed and embedded within its macroeconomic framework? If yes, highlight 3 ways in which this is being done.
4. Has the country considered smooth transition measures that include responding to and recovery from existing and emerging external shocks including COVID-19 impacts and the food and energy crises due to the war in Ukraine? If yes, highlight what are 2-3 key challenges where the country will need policy and technical advisory support?
5. What is the Government doing to ensure that the consultative mechanism for preparing for graduation and smooth transition is inclusive and engages a wide spectrum of voices across the country?

#### **F. Session Outline and a5 Tf1 0 0 1 120.14 424.15 Tm0 g0 G( )JTJETQ EMC /P A#MCID 10>842534.55 Tn**



	ensuring those most affected by the implications of graduation are not left behind	
10 minutes	<b>Presentation</b> on graduating out of LDC status and transitioning while coping with emerging and evolving external shocks.	Mr. Matthias Bruckner, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNDESA
45 minutes	<b>Panel discussion:</b> Country update on where national preparation for graduation including formulating a smooth transition strategy is at.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>2. Mr. Daovy VONGXAY, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR</li> <li>3. Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal</li> </ol>
45 minutes	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
5 minutes	<b>Closing:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Highlight key messages and recommendations for STS preparations.</li> <li>b. Highlight pertinent joint advocacy actions to be considered in the outcome/advocacy document.</li> </ol>	<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Roland Mollerus

## Technical Session 2:

Preferential Market Access, Intellectual Property Rights, and other ISMs

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### A. Background

Bangladesh, Nepal, and Lao PDR are currently entitled to special and differential treatment (ISMs) as LDCs, which can be divided into three categories (i.e. least developed countries, vulnerable least developed countries, and sub-Saharan African least developed countries) under the WTO rules.

assist LDCs in overcoming structural barriers to poverty eradication, achieving internationally agreed development goals, and effectively graduating from LDC category.

In this context, graduating LDCs should come up with a time-bound and action-oriented plan or strategy for market access including preferential market access and trade agreements under their national Smooth Transition Strategy (STS). Along with this, initiatives need to be taken to extend the TRIPS waiver and Patent licensing for public health-related goods.

## **B. Objective**

This session will address the questions of how graduating LDCs could respond to the existing and upcoming trade related challenges. It will not only focus on promoting strong and sustainable long-term trade growth but also emphasize the benefits of such trade strategies to effectively reduce poverty and improve the standard of living for all











10 minutes	including technology and what can countries do to improve their productive capacity and make their products competitive in global markets, post-Covid in the 21st century?	
	<b>Presentations</b> on global best practices for promotion of product and market diversification ( <i>5 minutes each</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Cecilia Heuser, Market Analyst, International Trade Centre</li> <li>2. Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, WTO Enhanced Integrated Framework (<i>virtual</i>)</li> </ol>



## Technical Session 4:

### Graduation, Good Governance and Meeting International Standards for Trade

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#### F. Background

Graduation out of least developed country (LDC) category is a unique opportunity for countries like Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nepal to explore how a people-centred approach to governance and human rights based on normative standards of rule of law and human rights inclu866 0 594.96 842.04 0in000008866 0 594.96 842.04 reW\*nBT/F5 12 Tf1 0 0 1 286.86 648.

PDR, with aspirations to become upper-middle-economies

## **I. Format:**

The plenary session will be organized as a hybrid of in-person and virtual (Zoom) combination of keynote speeches by a government, development partner and private sector, an interactive discussion moderated by the Chair and a clinic facilitated by a moderator.

Key Perspectives: The session will start with the Chair providing his perspectives on the topic followed by experts (non-LDC government, development partner and private sector) who will share their perspectives in applying and meeting international standards and principles related to environmental and human rights, including labour rights and good governance. And how doing so, has enhanced long-term viability and growth.

Interactive Discussion: Chair will moderate an interactive ‘Question and Answer’ session to allow graduating countries to ask clarifying questions or learn more from the keynote speakers.

Clinic: Chair will request country delegates only to remain in the meeting room for their clinic. For the first 40 minutes country delegations/groups will discuss and respond to each of the four guiding questions, moderated by two moderators with expertise on the issues. For the remaining 20 minutes, country delegations/groups will prepare their presentation for reporting back to the plenary highlighting the country’s own responses, what the country learned from the clinic and other countries’ experience and any proposed smooth transition measures/actions identified.

Country Action & Presentations: Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Nepal country delegations will be allowed an additional 30 minutes to present their responses to the guiding questions. In doing so, they can draw on keynote perspectives, interactive discussion, and the clinics. Each country group will select a speaker to present their proposed actions to the plenary (10 minutes per country)

Conclusions: To conclude the session, the Chair will highlight key takeaways and specific areas of reform and capacity strengthening that the government

Update on the European Union (EU) new Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) to be in place on 1 January 2024. What can the three countries expect in terms of international standards and principles related to climate, human rights, including labour rights, and good governance.

How can export-oriented firms in graduating countries, as price takers, use the international standards and principles related to good governance, climate and human and labour rights and laws, adapt their capabilities and business models and demand/negotiate for fair

**Technical session 5:**  
Climate change and LDC graduation

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**A. Background**

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policy formulation. Under UNFCCC, LDCs get technical guidance and assistance on accessing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the process of developing and implementing NAPs.

Knowledge creation and capacity building assistance are provided under LDCF. In addition, the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change aims to develop South-South and South-South-North knowledge sharing and capacity building programs in LDC universities and training institutes to address climate change through knowledge sharing, and education. The LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI) is a strategic framework for addressing climate change across sectors, as well as a platform for sharing experiences and best practices for dissemination to achieve universal energy access and accelerated economic growth and energy efficiency in all LDCs. The initiative also aims to attract additional funding.

Other global initiatives like, the European Union's Adaptation Fund seek to enable the world's most vulnerable countries to address climate change. The International Institute for Environment and Development is strengthening national legal and policy responses to meet their climate commitments.

After graduation, countries will no longer be eligible to receive new LDCF projects. Projects approved before and up until graduation will continue to receive full funding for implementation. Graduated LDCs, though, will continue to have access for the elaboration and implementation of their national adaptation plans to the Special Climate Change Fund and to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

While some of these funds, knowledge platforms, and capacity building avenues will still be available after graduation, cost of development finance including climate finance for developing countries will be higher. Further, even as new sources of climate finance become available<sup>7</sup>, the competition to access them will be higher. Therefore, graduating LDCs need to plan for securing through alternative mechanisms and sources, climate finance, and technical support, especially in the context of structural changes to their economies after graduation and growing adaptation needs in the face of the ongoing climate crisis.

national economic policy) to address them, once the international support measures for LDCs are no longer available.

### C. Guiding questions

The facilitator and participants will discuss and generate ideas in response to the following questions during the session.

1. How should the international community provide finance for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience building and policy reform programmes? What would be the technology needs of graduated LDCs for climate adaptation and mitigation?
2. Certain aspects of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience may need to continue to be supported despite the graduation of LDCs in light of their continued and even increased climate vulnerability. How best can the newly graduated LDCs collectively advocate for their interests in the UNFCCC? How will this smaller group of countries collectively advocate in other climate fora?
3. Climate mitigation and adaptation can bring significant economic returns. How can the graduating LDCs leverage these returns for their economic development? What kind of financing mechanisms can the graduating LDCs adopt to support their economic development? For instance the fossil fuel industry which is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

### D. Format

**Panel Discussion:** The session will start with a moderated panel discussion with three expert panellists who will frame the discussion and share available resources to tap into.

**Discussion workshop:** Participants will be divided into three groups. Each group will brainstorm one set of questions articulated above. Then each group will come up with ideas and recommendations against the question.

**Group presentation:** Each group will present their ideas and recommendations in the plenary followed by feedback, questions and open discussion.

**Conclusion:** Finally, the session will accumulate all the findings from each group and propose recommendations.

### E. Session Outline and Time: 1435 – 1715 (130 minutes + 20 minutes tea/coffee)

Time	Description	Resource person(s)/ Key questions
5 minutes	<b>Opening remarks:</b>	Chair: Subhra Bhattacharjee, Head of RCO, Bangladesh

	Setting the objective(s) of the session and describing the expected outcomes from this session.	
40 minutes	<p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> Moderated by the Chair</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office</li> <li>2. Dr. Joyashree Roy, IPCC Lead Author and Inaugural Bangabandhu Chair Professor and Director of centre on South Asia and South-East Asia MultiDisciplinary Applied Research Network on</li> </ol>



and Environment, Government  
of Lao PDR

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### C. Guiding Questions

1. What stage is the development of an INFF for your country at? What have been the main achievements?
2. How have the approaches for your country's INFF taken into account the different needs and contexts of different groups (e.g., gender, youth) and sectors (e.g., social sectors, climate)?
3. What steps have been taken to develop synergies between the INFF and the country's national STS planning?
4. Are systems in place to support integrated approaches to planning and financing? Can new ways be explored to strengthen these?
5. What challenges have been encountered in the implementation of the INFF and how have these been addressed?
6. What key support measures and technical assistance are needed to structure and deliver on setting foundations for the INFF or on the identified policies and actions to enhance sustainable financing of development would be needed?

### D. Format

The plenary session will be in-person and virtual (Zoom) and include a presentation by an expert, a moderated panel discussion with representatives from Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Nepal, and interactive Q&A.

### E. Session Outline and Time Allocated: Thursday 0900 1030 (90 minutes)

Time	Description	Resource person(s)/ Key questions
5 minutes	<b>Brief Opening remarks to set the scene:</b> Outline session objectives, format and expected outcomes.	Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR
20 minutes	<b>Presentation:</b> “How INFFs could help to manage transitions to achieve sustainable graduation and advance towards long-term inclusive and sustainable development”	Ms. Radika Lal, SDG Finance Advisor, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub ( <i>virtual</i> )
35 minutes	<b>Panel Discussion</b> moderated by the Chair	Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR  Representatives of lead INFF ministry from each country: 1. Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Government of Bangladesh

		<p>2. Dr. Chantanaphone Vongxay, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Government of Lao PDR.</p> <p>3. Mr. Dhundi Prasad Niraula, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal</p> <p>UNRCO Economists of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Lao PDR</p>
20 minutes	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
10 minutes	<p><b>Closing:</b> Summary of session and recommendations for STS preparations</p> <p>a. What policy recommendations emerge as relevant for the graduating LDCs?</p> <p>b. What potential support could be useful in implementing these recommendations?</p>	<p>Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR</p>

**Key Background Documents:**

1. INFF Facility Global Report: The State of Integrated National Financing Frameworks:





	b. What potential support could be useful in implementing these recommendations?	
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## Technical Session 8: Prioritizing Smooth Transition Measures and Identifying Implementation Modalities

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### A. Background

The graduating cohort of 2021 - Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Nepal while earmarked to graduate at the same time in November 2026, are quite diverse as countries. Bangladesh is five times the population



- d. Agreement on 3-5 key areas for joint collaboration and advocacy by the three countries as the graduating cohort of 2021.

### C. Format

The session will begin with the Chair outlining the objective of the session, followed by country presentations and an interactive discussion moderated by the Chair.

### D. Session Outline and Time Allocated: 1400 1500 (60 minutes)

Time	Description	Resource person(s)/ Key questions
5 minutes	<b>Briefly Outline the objective of the session</b> and expected outcomes and how these feed not the Closing Session. Introduce the three country presenters.	Chair: Mr. Matthew Johnson-Idan, Economist, UN RCO, Lao PDR
30 minutes	<b>Country Presentations</b> on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key learning over the 3 days.</li> <li>Priority smooth transition measures and implementation modalities that may be considered for inclusion in STS.</li> <li>Country graduation and STS roadmap and adjustments if any and next steps for formulating their STS and successfully implementing their roadmap; and</li> <li>3-5 key areas for collaboration and advocacy by the three countries as the graduating cohort of 2021.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief (Development Effectiveness Wing), Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>Mr. Daovy Vongxay, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Lao PDR</li> <li>Mr. Prakash Dahal, Joint Secretary/LDC Focal Point, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</li> </ol>
20 minutes	<b>Moderated Discussion:</b> Questions and comments can be made to eacy4(a)4implementation modalities that ma(	

	reflected in the Outcome/Advocacy Document.	
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## **CLOSING PLENARY**

Revisit the key objectives of the three days south-south-exchange and highlight what was achieved, key takeaways and next steps countries will undertake and support from development and trading partners to be mobilised for the formulation of national Smooth Transitions Strategies by the three countries - Graduating Cohort of 2021.

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### **A. Objective**

The objective of the closing plenary is to draw from the presentations and discussions in the eight technical sessions key takeaways and identify pathways for the formulation and implementation of Smooth Transition Strategies by the three

	<p>a. Common challenges of graduation and pathways identified to address them collaboratively in devising the country’s national Smooth Transition Strategy.</p> <p>b. Key international support identified for developing the country’s national Smooth Transition Strategy and advocacy plan to be devised.</p> <p>c. Pertinent and strategic advocacy messages for collective and individual country efforts for effective international support to fully implement national Smooth Transition Strategies.</p>	<p>Affairs, Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic</p> <p>3. Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</p>
10 minutes	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> Offer some perspectives/specific smooth transition measures for the countries to consider and how the CDP and the IATF can support them through their work and iGRAD - delivered through the UN RC and their offices and the UN Country Teams. How can they garner critical support for the three countries, in terms of the support they have highlighted.</p>	<p>Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Member, United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and Senior Advisor, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) and former Director, Division for Africa, UNCTAD</p>
5 minutes	<p><b>Officially close the meeting</b> by highlighting how the UN through the RCO and development partners could support the three countries implement their outcome/advocacy document. Thank participants and wish them safe travels.</p>	<p>Chair: Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR</p>