

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 in the form of policy and technical advisory and financial 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. The workshop combines specific service offered under iGRAD Service Offering Lines (SOLs) 3 and 5. It is expected to re-energize the STS preparation process, learn from the industry/sector experts, share ideas amongst each other, and devise some common guidelines for transition.

Participation of Government officials and key stakeholders from the private sector, academia, research institutes, think tanks and civil society, at the technical level, who would directly work on formulating and drafting the STS in their respective countries, are expected to attend the event alongside representatives from RCOs, DESA, ESCAP, OHRLLS, and other relevant UN agencies. The workshop is being funded by DESA as a contribution to iGRAD and through its Project Development Fund.

B.

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;

Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, UNESCAP, paddison@un.org;

Ms. Susana Wolf, Senior Programme Management Officer, LDC Unit, UNOHRLLS, wolf1@un.org;

Mr. Md. Mazedul Islam, Development Coordination Officer/Economist, UN Resident **Bangladesh**; mazedul.islam@un.org;

Mr. Matthew Johnson-

Opening Remarks: 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

Presentation on the event outline and key objectives (RCO

Economists: Mr. Md. Mazedul Islam of Bangladesh; Mr. Matthew David Johnson-Idan of Lao PDR; and Mr. Subhash Nepali of Nepal

Photography

	c. engages a wide spectrum of stakeholders and voices in formulating, drafting, and validating the STS.
1310 1400 hrs.	Lunch break
SECTION 2: IMPACTS OF GRADUATION AND SMOOTH TRANSITION MEASURES	

1400
1600
hrs.

Technical Session 2: Preferential Market Access and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Chair: Ms. Gwyn Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator, Bangladesh

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Tran Toan Thang, Director, Department of Industrial Forecast and Enterprise Development (DIFED), National Center for Economic Forecast and Information (NCIF), Ministry of Planning and Investment, Government of Vietnam

Panellists:

1. Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Member, UN Committee for Development Policy

Wednesday 0900
24 August 1040
2022 hrs.

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Radhika Lal, SDG Finance Policy Advisor,
UNDP (*virtual*)

In this session, the LDC graduating countries will discuss their

