

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

STS key elements and measures include response to and recovery from evolving external shocks and are integrated in a macroeconomic framework.

Countries' graduation process is inclusive and meaningfully engages a wide spectrum of stakeholders and voices in formulating, drafting and validating the STS.

C. 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 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?

D. Session Outline and Time Allocated: 1100 - 1310 (130 min)

Time	Description	Resource person(s)
5 minutes	Introduction and outline of the session	Chair: Mr. Roland Mollerus, CDP Secretary and Chief of Development Policy Branch, UNDESA
10 minutes	Keynote Speaker inspires the three countries to undertake solid preparation for graduation and transition towards sustainable development ensuring the phasing out of LDC-specific support does not disrupt their development, and for development and trading partners to provide targeted capacity building support.	Dr. CHO Byungkoo, Fellow, Korea Development Institute (KDI), Seoul, Korea (<i>virtual</i>)
10 minutes	Presentation on how the graduating cohort of 2021 can formulate an STS that goes 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	
10 minutes	Presentation 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	Panel discussion: Country update on where national preparation for graduation including formulating a smooth transition strategy is at.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh 2. Mr. Daovy VONGXAY, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR 3. Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal
45 minutes	Q&A	
5 minutes	Closing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Highlight key messages and recommendations for STS preparations. b. Highlight pertinent joint advocacy actions to be considered in the outcome/advocacy document. 	Chair: Mr. Roland Mollerus