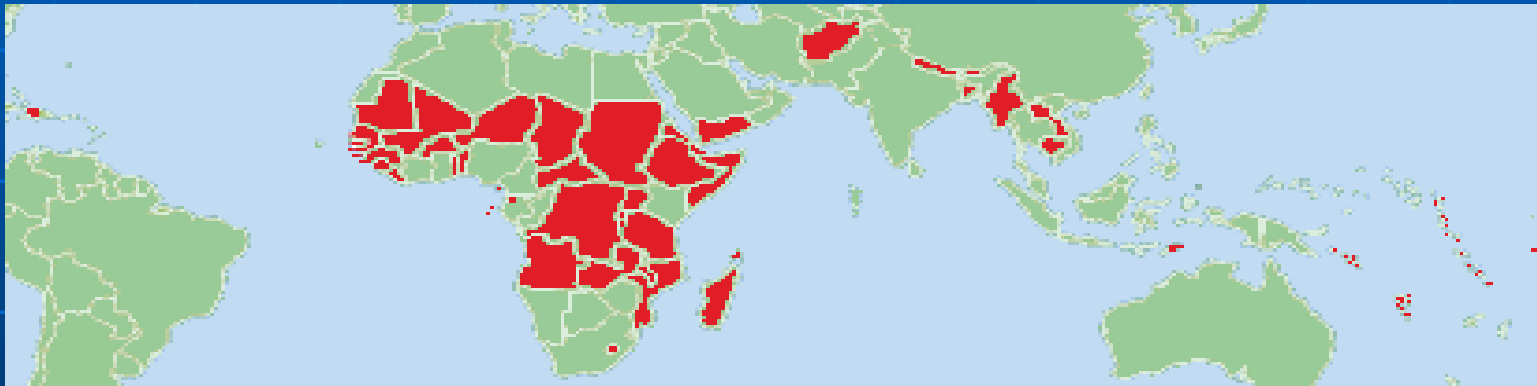




The Least Developed Country Category: Overview



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Overview

1. The CDP and its Secretariat
2. The LDCs
3. The criteria
4. The process
 1. Inclusion
 2. Graduation
5. Preparation and Smooth transition

1. The CDP and its Secretariat

CDP : Subsidiary body of ECOSOC (resolution 1998/46)

- Policy advice
- Identification of LDCs:
 - Triennial reviews
 - Methodology and process
 - Monitoring of graduating and graduated LDCs

CDP Secretariat (DESA/DPAD):

- Substantive support
- Dissemination of CDP work (CDP website)
- Capacity building

2. The LDCs

2014	→	Samoa
2012	←	South Sudan
2011	→	Maldives
2007	→	Cape Verde
2003	←	Timor-Leste
2000	←	Senegal
1994	→	Botswana
	←	Angola, Eritrea
1991	←	Cambodia, Democratic Republic Of the Congo, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Zambia
1990	←	Liberia
1988	←	Mozambique
1987	←	Myanmar
1986	←	Kiribati, Mauritania, Tuvalu
1985	←	Vanuatu
1982	←	Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Togo
1977	←	Cape Verde, Comoros
1975	←	Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Gambia
1971	←	Afghanistan, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sikkim, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen

- Countries consistently lagging behind
- Category created in 1971
- Special measures for catching up with other developing countries
- From 25 to 49 Countries
- 12 from ESCAP
- 3 (4) graduations

What is an LDC?

- ➔ Low-income countries + facing structural handicaps to sustainable development
- GNI per capita (as a measure of income)
- Structural impediments to **sustainable development**:
 1. Level of human development measured by the Human Asset Index (HAI),
 2. Structural vulnerability to shocks proxied by the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)

Selecting indicators: requirements

- Relevance
- Observations
- Methodologically robust
- Comparable
- Coverage
- Frequency

3. The criteria

1. GNI per capita

2. HAI

(equal weights)

- % undernourished
- U5MR
- Gross secondary enrolment
- Adult literacy

3. EVI

a. Exposure index

- Size: Population (1/8)
- Location: Remoteness (1/8)
- Economic Structure:
 - Export concentration (goods) (1/16)
 - Agric., Forestry and Fisheries (% GDP) (1/16)
- Environment:
 - Share of pop in LEZ (1/8)

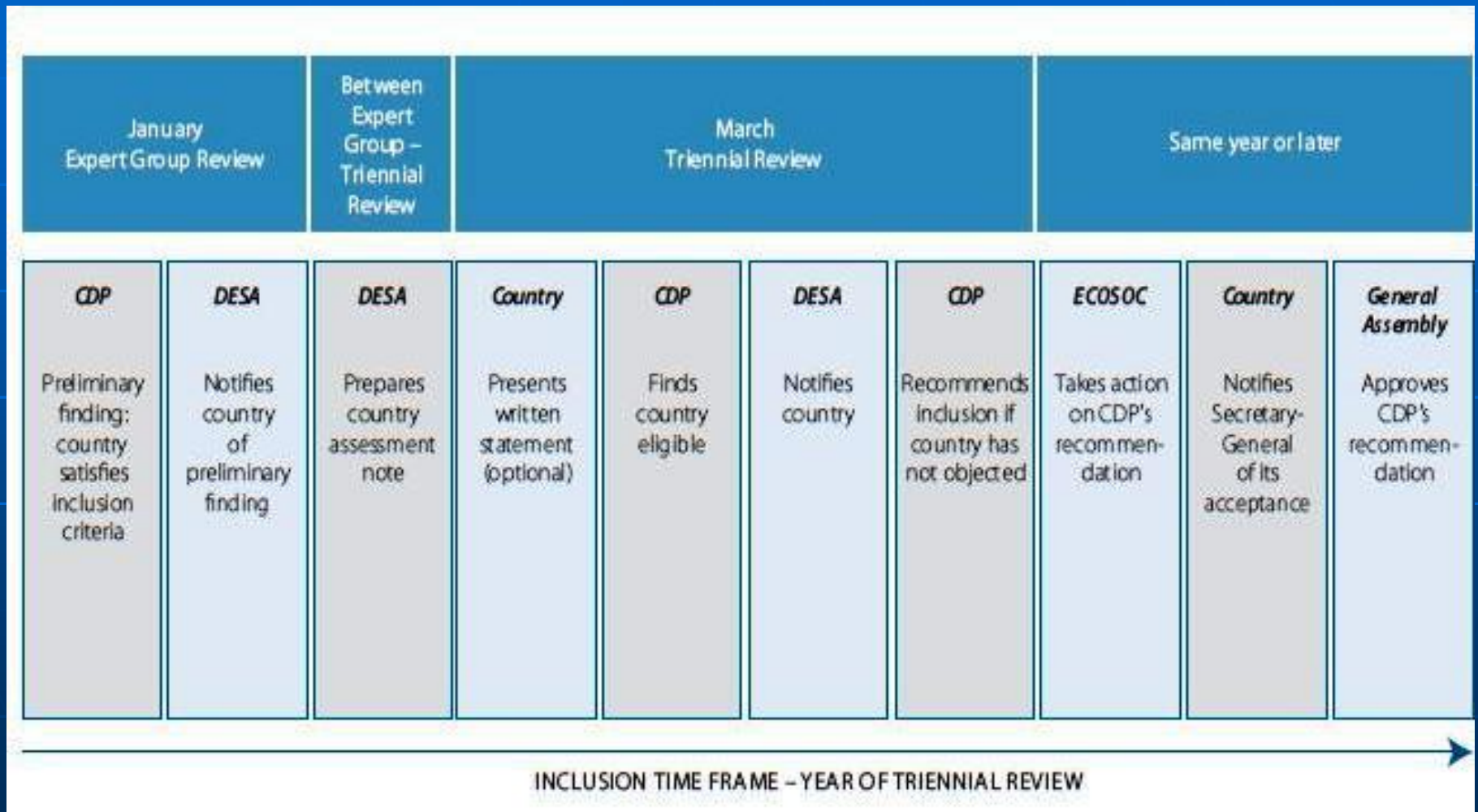
b. Shock index

- Natural shock:
 - Victims (1/8)
 - Agricultural production (1/8)
- Trade shock: Exports of goods and services (1/4)

4. The process: inclusion

- ✓ Country satisfies 3 criteria
- ✓ Population < 75 million
- ✓ Recommended by the CDP
- ✓ Country agrees to inclusion
- ✓ Endorsed by ECOSOC and UNGA
- ✓ Effective immediately

Inclusion time frame



Special Support Measures for LDCs

A. Official Development Assistance:

- ⇒ Financial flows and technical assistance
- ⇒ Bilateral and multilateral donors

B. International trade:

- ⇒ SDT on WTO obligations
- ⇒ Market Access

C. Other forms of support:

- ⇒ Caps contribution to UN budget, PKO discount contributions
- ⇒ Travel funds
- ⇒ Others

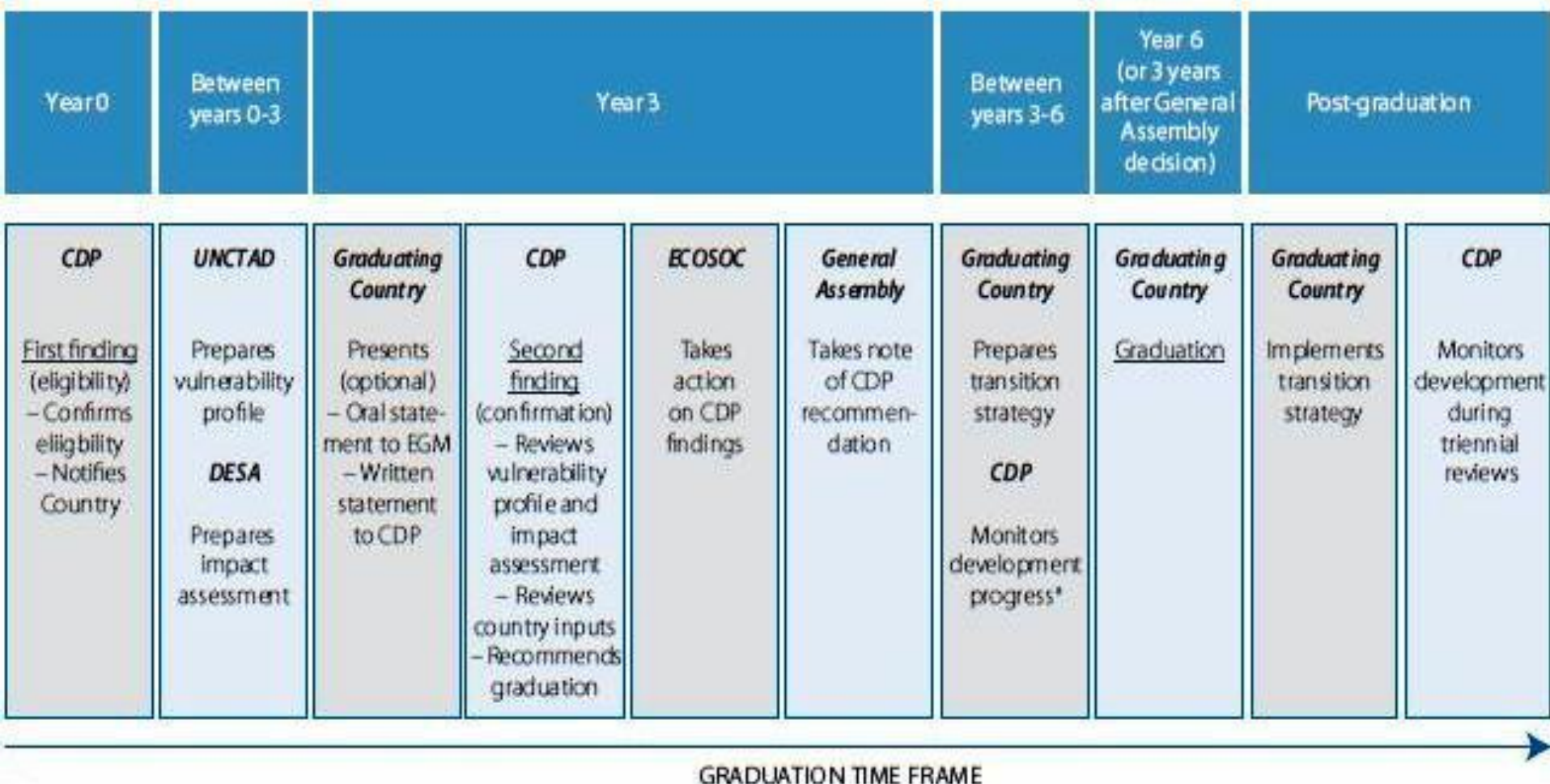
⇒ Since 1981, support by the development partners framed by the Programmes of Action for LDCs

4. The process: graduation

Asymmetries:

- ✓ Graduation > Inclusion
 - ✓ Country to meet any 2 criteria or income > double graduation threshold
 - ✓ Eligibility ascertained twice
 - ✓ Not mechanical:
 - Country consultations
 - DESA ex-ante impact assessment
 - UNCTAD vulnerability profile
 - ✓ Country need not to agree
-
- Recommended by CDP
 - Endorsed by ECOSOC
 - Taken note by the UNGA
 - Graduation effective after 3 years

Graduation time frame



5. Preparation and smooth transition

Preparation:

- Graduating country: prepares transition strategy with partners
- CDP: monitors development progress
- Country still LDC with assess to LDC specific support

★GRADUATION★

Smooth transition:

- Graduated country: implements smooth transition strategy
- Development and trading partners: provide support for the transition
- CDP: monitors development

LDC-dedicated pages CDP website

- LDC criteria: overview, methodology, data sources
- LDC Handbook and updates (E and F)
- Data bases: triennial reviews (2006 onwards), retrospective HAI and EVI
- Country information:
 - ✓ ECOSOC and GA resolutions
 - ✓ CDP Reports
 - ✓ Vulnerability Profile, Impact Assessment
 - ✓ Graduation and transition reports
 - ✓ Country statements, presentations

Additional information

Available at the CDP web site:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc_info.shtml

Coming up next...

The LDC criteria