

WORKSHOP ON VULNERABILITY PROFILE

Helping Bangladesh make graduation a milestone of continued economic progress

Jointly organized by the Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP), ERD, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Thursday 10 December 2020

Chief Guest:	Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Ministers Office & Chairperson, National Task Force on Implementation of LDC Graduation Roadmap
Special Guest:	Ms. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator, Bangladesh Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) (tbc)
Chair:	Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance

Time	Activity
Opening Session	
14:00 – 14:25 (Dhaka Standard Time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks by Mr. Farid Aziz, Project Director, SSGP & Wing Chief (Joint Secretary), DE Wing, ERD Address by Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa and LDCs, UNCTAD Address by the Special Guests Address by the Chief Guest Address by the Chair
Working Session-1 : Moderator: : Mr. Monowar Ahmed, National Project Manager, SSGP	
14:30 – 15:10	<p><i>Structural transformation and lingering sources of vulnerability</i></p> <p>– Presentation by Mr. Giovanni Valensisi, LDC Section, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>This session will examine the broad performance of Bangladesh under several development indicators – including the LDC criteria – and how this performance reveals underlying patterns structural economic and social progress in the country. Despite Bangladesh’s pre-eligibility for graduation from LDC status, there are indications of some continuing “transformational challenges”, especially in terms of export diversification, access to external finance and persistent environmental vulnerabilities. This session will highlight the issues, as well as possible policy responses to them. It will draw largely from the Vulnerability Profile of Bangladesh.</i></p>
15:10 – 15:50	Interactive debate

Working Session-2 : Moderator: Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce	
15:55 –16:15	<p><i>Implications of graduation and the roadmap towards and beyond Bangladesh’s graduation</i></p> <p>– Presentation by Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>The anticipated impact after the exclusion from the LDC category is an important facet of the necessary preparatory work behind Bangladesh’s strategy to anticipate graduation. The session will discuss the critical changes associated with the exclusion from the LDC category, and the possibilities of negotiating some form of international support beyond graduation.</i></p> <p><i>It will also discuss the formulation, implementation and follow-up of the smooth transition strategy (STS) which Bangladesh is expected to put in place in view of its likely confirmation of eligibility of graduation in early 2021.</i></p>
16:15 – 16:35	Interactive debate
Closing Session: Moderator: Mr. Monowar Ahmed, National Project Manager, SSGP	
16:40 – 17:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary remarks by Mr. Junior Davis, Head, Policy Analysis and Research Branch, UNCTAD • Remarks by Guest of Honour Mr. Abdur Rouf Talukder, Senior Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance (tbc) • Remarks by Guest of Honour Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Concluding remarks by the Chair, Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance