



***“Building productive capacities for sustainable development in the least developed countries (LDCs)”
Briefing for New York-based member States***

16 February 2021

Online event

10:00am to 11:00am (EST, New York Time) 16:00 to 17:00 (CET, Geneva Time)

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has rolled back some of the hard-earned progress made by the LDCs towards sustainable development. The broadening and full utilization of productive capacities remains central to upgrade their economic structures, bridge their development gaps, and achieve a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery. Bold, concerted policies to strengthen productive capacities are imperative, by both LDCs themselves and by their development partners. In light of the cross-sectoral, integrated, and cross-cutting nature of productive capacities and the positive impact that they can have across the national economy, including on poverty reduction, job creation, graduation from the LDC category and structural transformation, the development of productive capacities should be the central objective of the next Programme of Action for LDCs. UNCTAD has developed a Productive Capacities Index (PCI) that measures and benchmarks the level of a country’s productive capacities. Apart from measurement, the PCI allows the identification of economy-wide gaps and limitations that hinder efforts aimed at fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation. It could further enable the LDCs and development partners to monitor progress in the implementation of their Programme of Action for 2021-2031.

Programme

Opening statements

Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes (ALDC), UNCTAD
H.E. Mr. Perks C. Ligoya, Ambassador of the Republic of Malawi to the UN, Chair of the LDC Group

UNCTAD’s Productive Capacities Index (PCI)

Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries Section, ALDC, UNCTAD

Productive capacities for the new decade

Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, Least Developed Countries Section, ALDC, UNCTAD

Respondents and Exchange of views

Moderated by Mr. Paul Akiwumi, ALDC, UNCTAD

Closing statement and the way forward

Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes (ALDC), UNCTAD

Modalities

The briefing will be held online in English via Webex. Participation is open to representatives and delegates of UNCTAD member States based in New York. Please access the event through the following link: <https://rtce-unog.webex.com/rtce-unog/j.php?MTID=me8792d44250d02ea295a3ff997e9eb59>.

For any questions, please contact Mr. Rolf Traeger (Rolf.Traeger@un.org) and Mr. Raymond Landveld (Landveld@un.org).