

24-25 June 2026

09:00 a.m. – 17:00 p.m. (GMT+2)

M Hotel – Kigali

Validation workshop on the Vulnerability Profile of Rwanda

Background

Rwanda met the eligibility criteria for graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the first time at the 2024 triennial review of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP). In line with established procedures, the country will be considered for a possible recommendation for graduation at the next triennial review in 2027.

Under the United Nations General Assembly resolution 59/209, “*After a country has fulfilled the criteria for graduation for the first time, UNCTAD is mandated to prepare a vulnerability profile*” for CDP consideration. The Vulnerability Profile is an analytical and forward-looking assessment that examines the country’s vulnerabilities across the five dimensions of sustainable development (the “five Ps”): People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. It evaluates the economy’s exposure to external shocks, as well as the strengths and structural constraints underpinning its development trajectory.

On this basis, the Profile assesses the sustainability of development gains in the context of graduation and the post-graduation phase. Given the importance of adequate preparation, the analysis also identifies priority areas requiring policy attention to enhance resilience, as well as opportunities that could be leveraged to sustain development momentum.

The Vulnerability Profile thus serves a threefold purpose:

- Informing the CDP’s assessment of the country’s economic and social progress;
- Supporting the Government with evidence-based analysis to enrich national deliberations on LDC graduation and related preparedness; and
- Providing actionable insights for the development of a smooth transition strategy towards post-LDC status, in line with the mandates set out in General Assembly resolutions 59/209 (20 December 2004) and 67/221 (21 December 2012).

The Validation Workshop on the Vulnerability Profile of Rwanda is conceived as a forward-looking, consultative platform to bring together key stakeholders to review and

validate the preliminary findings of the Profile, while contributing to Rwanda's strategic preparation for graduation from the LDC category.

Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop is to validate the preliminary findings of the Vulnerability Profile of Rwanda and to facilitate an inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue on the country's prospective graduation from the LDC category.

Specific objectives are to:

- Review, complement and validate the preliminary findings of the Vulnerability Profile of Rwanda;
- Foster a shared understanding among national stakeholders of the LDC graduation process and its analytical underpinnings;
- Identify remaining sources of structural vulnerability that may need to be addressed to sustain progress towards graduation and beyond;
- Support ongoing national efforts to mainstream LDC graduation considerations into development planning frameworks and engagement strategies with development partners.

Expected outcomes

Interactive discussions in each working session are intended to enable a deeper understanding of the challenges raised by the VP. Issues to be interrogated include:

- The key areas of vulnerabilities that must be tackled
- The prospects, opportunities and challenges Rwanda is likely to face in the road to graduation and as a graduated LDC
- The policy options and strategies necessary to address identified challenges, including related constraints on productive capacities and structural economic transformation
- Potential limitations in institutional capacity, including the importance of inter-ministerial coordination
- The role desired of development partners in supporting Rwanda in its efforts to build graduation momentum.

Target audience and conveners

The workshop will bring together approximately 40–50 technical-level participants, including:

- Representation from across government entities and regulatory institutions
- Representation from the private sector (e.g. Chamber of Commerce and Services, Private Sector Federation, and/or other business associations in key export sectors)
- Representation from academia and key national think tanks.

Convener: The workshop will be organized by the Least Developed Countries Section of the Division for Africa Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes of UNCTAD, and hosted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), and facilitated by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Rwanda.



Programme

24-25 June 2026, 9 a.m to 5 p.m

M Hotel, Kigali

Wednesday, 24 June

09–10 a.m.	Welcome and registration
10–10.30 a.m.	Opening session
Opening remarks	Ms. Angela Zeleza Rebeca, Chief of Office of the UN resident Coordinator Office
Video address	Mr. Pedro Moreno, Acting Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Remarks	Mr Laban Bayigana, Chief National Financial Operation – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)
10.30–11 a.m.	Group photo and coffeee break
11–12 a.m.	Introduction
	This session will provide an overview of the LDC graduation process and contextualize UNCTAD's Vulnerability Profile as both a substantive input to CDP deliberations and a vehicle to mainstream graduation issues into the country's national development strategies, in preparation for and beyond LDC graduation.
Presentation	Ms Matfobhi Riba, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD
	Open discussion
12–1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30–3 p.m.	Prosperity
	This session will present an assessment of Rwanda's economic growth performance, with particular attention to the pace and quality of structural transformation. It will also examine the country's prospects for achieving "graduation with momentum. The session will focus on both progress achieved and remaining structural constraints affecting structural change. In particular, the discussion will address key drivers and bottlenecks related to industrialization, export diversification, and private sector development, including their role in enhancing economic resilience and sustaining inclusive growth.
Presentation	Mr Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD
Panelists	Mr Dominique Rwamuheto, Macroeconomic Policy Analyst – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN)
	Mr. Fred Murigande, Trade Negotiation and Cooperation Specialist – Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM)
	Mr. Gasasira Martin, Export development analyst development analyst – Rwanda Development Board (RDB)
	Mr. Faustin Karasira, Chief Operations Officer – Private sector federations (PSF)
	Open discussion



3-3.15p.m.	Group photo and coffeee break
3.15-4.45 p.m.	People This session will focus on Rwanda's social development performance, including an analysis of the drivers underpinning recent improvements in the Human Asset Index (HAI). Particular attention will be given to key dimensions of human capital accumulation, including education and health outcomes, as well as their distributional aspects. The session will also examine structural challenges related to labour market outcomes, spatial inequalities, and multidimensional poverty, with a view to identifying policy priorities for promoting inclusive and equitable development outcomes. Presentation Mr Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD Panelists Mr. Jean Marie Vianney Ndayizigiye, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Health (MINISANTE) Ms. Rose Baguma, Head of Education Policy Department – Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) Mr. Abdou Musonera, Head of Department - Targeted Labour Market Interventions – Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA) Open discussion
4.45-5p.m.	Wrap up of day 1

Thursday, 25 June

9.30-11.15 a.m.	Regional integration and LDC graduation This session will examine the role of regional integration as a catalyst for structural transformation in Rwanda, including its potential to enhance productive capacities and support export diversification. It will further assess how deeper regional integration can help mitigate potential adverse impacts associated with LDC graduation, particularly those arising from the progressive loss of preferential market access in non-regional markets. The discussion will consider the opportunities offered by regional markets (not only through the East African Community but also the African Continental Free Trade Area) to strengthen resilience, promote value chain development, and sustain trade-led growth. Presentations Ms Matfobhi Riba, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD Ms Simone Assah Kuete, Economic Affairs Officer – ECA Open discussion
11.15-11.30 a.m.	Coffeee break



11.30 – 1.30 p.m.	Planet
	This session will provide an assessment of Rwanda's environmental vulnerabilities, with particular reference to the dimensions captured by the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EEVI). The discussion will focus on key environmental and climate-related challenges, including the impacts of climate change, the need for climate-resilient agricultural adaptation, and the twin challenges of pursuing universal access to modern energy while also advancing the energy transition. It will also explore policy options to strengthen resilience, enhance sustainability, and support Rwanda's long-term structural transformation in the context of environmental constraints. This session will provide an overview of the LDC graduation process and contextualize UNCTAD's Vulnerability Profile as both a substantive input to CDP deliberations and a vehicle to mainstream graduation issues into the country's national development strategies, in preparation for and beyond LDC graduation.
Presentation	Mr Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD
Panelists	Ms. Marie Grâce Nyinawumuntu, Director General, Europe, Americas and International Organizations – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MINAFFET) Mr. Fred Murigande, Trade Negotiation and Cooperation Specialist – Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) Mr. Faustin Karasira, Chief Operations Officer- Private sector federations (PSF) Open discussion
1 - 2.30 p.m.	Lunch break
2 –3 p.m.	Partnership and Peace
	This session will examine key enablers of sustainable development in Rwanda, with a particular focus on partnerships and the role of peace and stability as foundational conditions for sustainable development. The discussion will primarily assess recent trends and emerging challenges in financing for sustainable development. Key themes will include the evolution of debt dynamics and related financing constraints, as well as viable options to expand the contribution of private sector financing. The session will also discuss strategies to adapt to the ongoing decline in concessional finance and explore the potential of blended finance and other innovative financing instruments.
Presentation	Mr Giovanni Valensisi, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD
Panelists	Mr Gerard Gakunzi, Director General of Debt Department – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) Ms. Marie Grâce Nyinawumuntu, Director General of Europe, Americas and International Organizations – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MINAFFET) Mr Isaac RUGAMBA, Manager resource mobilization – Rwanda development Bank (BRD) Open discussion
3.00-3.15 p.m.	Coffee break



3.15 – 4.30 p.m.	Wrap up and next steps
	The session will present the main takeaways of the workshop and identify priority follow-up actions to support a “graduation with momentum”. It will also clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), its secretariat, and the country’s designated Rapporteur, and provide an overview of the next steps in the LDC graduation process, with particular emphasis on timeline (including preparatory and transition periods) and key milestones towards the 2027 Triennial Review of the list of LDCs.
Presentations	Ms Matfobhi Riba, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD Ms Marcia Tavares, Economic Affairs Officer – DESA Open discussion
4.30 - 5 p.m.	Closing remarks
Closing remarks	Mr. Kevin Sebinez, – Director General of National Research – Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) Ms Matfobhi Riba, Economic Affairs Officer – UNCTAD

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