

# THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

## REPORT 2021

The least developed countries in a post-COVID world:  
Learning from 50 years of experience

LDCs'  
Development  
over the last  
50 years

Evaluating  
Past PoAs

Cost of  
reaching  
SDGs

Policy  
proposals

The Doha  
Programme  
of Action



Paul Akiwumi  
Director, ALDC Division

Trade and Development Board, 71st executive session  
10 February 2022

# 50 Years of the LDC category

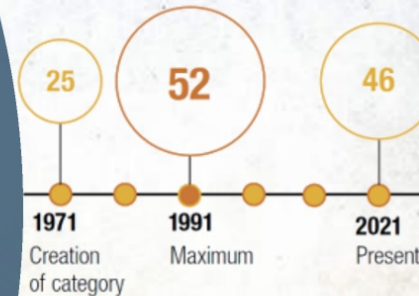


Economic and social development indicators have greatly improved since 1971, but **weaknesses still remain**.



Since 1971, just **6** countries have graduated from the category.

Number of LDCs



LDCs accounted for just



**0.13%**  
of global trade in the 2010s



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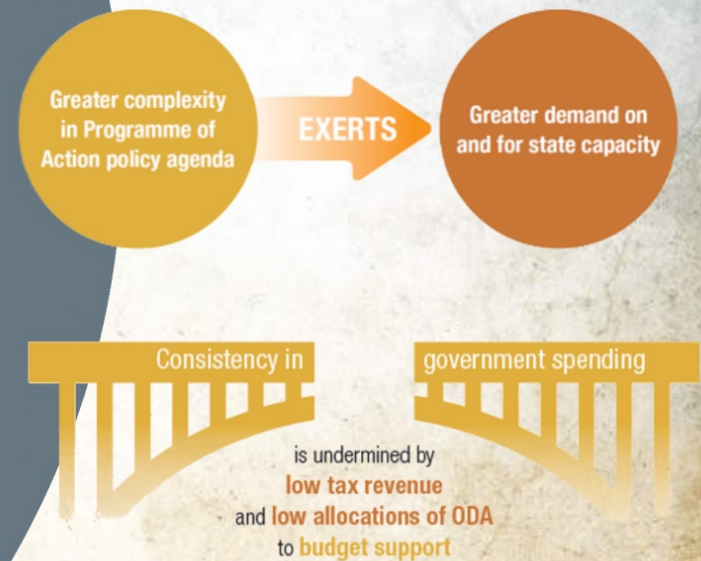
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## Past multi-lateral Programmes of Action for LDCs

4 LDC-specific PoAs have been negotiated since 1981.

They have contributed to development outcomes but have not fully reached their objectives.

The success of PoAs depends on the availability of state capacity, which has been eroded by dominant development policies.



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## Estimating the cost of LDCs reaching major SDGs



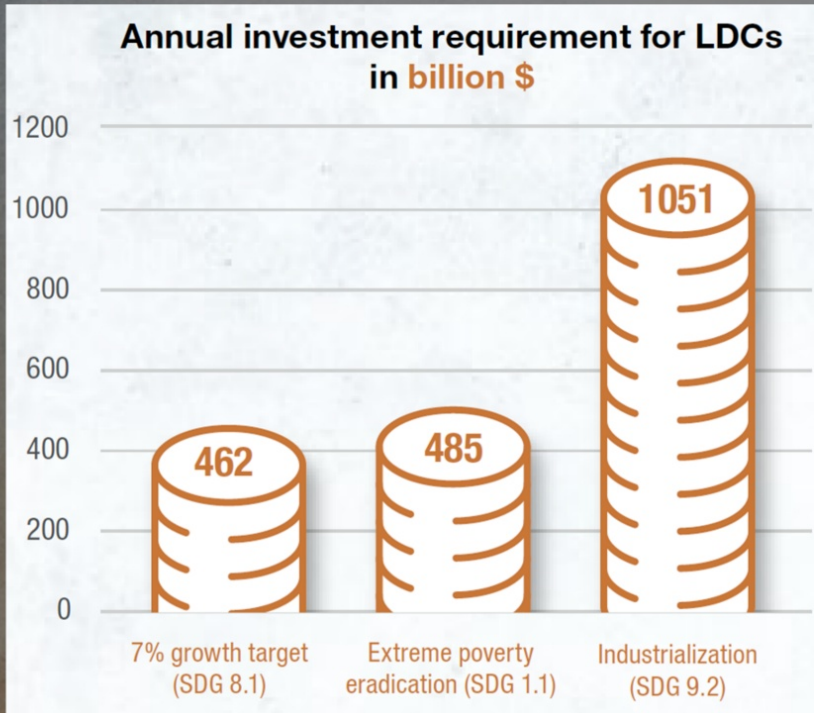
The LDC Report undertakes a novel costing exercise of the most critical SDG targets.



Costing is critical for prioritizing and allocating resources to key SDGs.



Major economic targets require a **massive increase in investment.**



To reach the 7% growth target, LDCs have to invest \$462 billion/ year

To double the share of manufacturing/ GDP, LDCs have to grow at 20% a year

## Estimating the cost of LDCs reaching major SDGs



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**Results**



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# Policy proposals

Mainstreaming productive capacity development

Support from the international community

➤ A new generation of ISMs

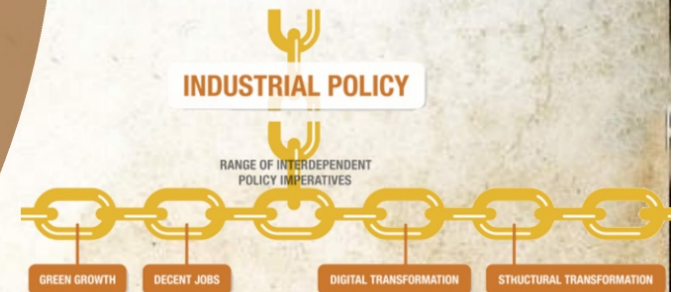
Investment in state capacity

Expansion of LDC enterprise base

Having an industrial policy mindset

advancing  
development  
**LDCs**  
↑↑↑↑  
**ISMs**

To build forward and transform,  
LDCs need to adopt an industrial policy mindset



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## What **UNCTAD** can take the lead on in the implementation of the DPoA:



**LDC5**  
5TH UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



Undertake National and Regional PCGAs



Producing Vulnerability Profiles and supporting smooth transition strategies towards graduating with momentum



Preparing the feasibility study of an International Investment Support Centre for LDCs



Preparing the feasibility study of an online platform for LDCs

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