THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
REPORT 2021
The least developed countries in a post-COVID world:
Learning from 50 years of experience

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

Evaluating Past PoAs
Cost of reaching SDGs
Policy proposals
The Doha Programme of Action

LDCs' Development over the last 50 years
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.
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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.

- **7% growth target (SDG 8.1)**: $462 billion/year
- **Extreme poverty eradication (SDG 1.1)**: $485 billion/year
- **Industrialization (SDG 9.2)**: $1051 billion/year

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

- 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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