



General Assembly

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Agenda item 9

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 2013

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.20)]

68/18. Graduation of countries from the least developed country category

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/32 of 27 July 2012 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session,

Taking into account its resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004, [65/286](#) of 29 June 2011 and [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution [67/221](#), in which the General Assembly decided to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from the least developed country category, as well as the inclusion of countries in that category, at the first session of the Assembly following the adoption of the decisions,

Emphasizing that graduation from the least developed country category is a major milestone for the country involved as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals,

1. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

2. *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the least developed country category, and decides to provide Equatorial Guinea, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of six months before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

3. *Invites* Equatorial Guinea to prepare, during the three and a half year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners;

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4. *Takes note* of the endorsement by the Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category, and decides to provide Vanuatu, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of one year before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

5. *Invites* Vanuatu to prepare, during the four-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and its graduation from the least developed country category, its national smooth-transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners.

*59th plenary meeting
4 December 2013*
