



Workshop on 'UNCTAD LDC Report 2022: Implications for Bangladesh'

Organized by

Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP)

Economic Relations Division

Ministry of Finance

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Workshop on ‘UNCTAD LDC Report 2022: Implications for Bangladesh’

Outcome Document

Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) organized a workshop on ‘UNCTAD LDC Report 2022: Implications for Bangladesh’ at the NEC Conference Room, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka on 19 December 2022.

Hon’ble State Minister of the Ministry of Planning Dr. Shamsul Alam graced the event as the chief guest. UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Ms. Gwyn Lewis attended the workshop as the Guest of Honor. Secretary of ERD Ms. Sharifa Khan chaired the workshop.

It is notable that United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) annually publishes a report on issues pertaining to the world’s Least Developed Countries (LDCs). These annual reports provide a comprehensive and authoritative source of socio-economic analysis and data on the LDCs.

This year’s UNCTAD LDC report, which was published on 03 November 2022, had been themed on ‘The low-carbon transition and its daunting implications for structural transformation’. The Report explored LDC-specific development challenges of low-carbon development and structural transformation. It analyzed the multifaceted linkages between climate change adaptation and sustainable development, underscoring mutually beneficial opportunities and potential trade-offs for which international support to LDCs is indispensable. In this context, the workshop was organized to discuss and analyse the implications of the findings of this year’s UNCTAD report on Bangladesh.

Structure of the Event

In the beginning, Additional Secretary of ERD and Project Director of SSGP Mr. Farid Aziz delivered the welcome address. Afterwards, ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan delivered a keynote presentation of the main theme of the event. This was followed by a panel discussion participated by Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr. Iqbal Abdullah Harun, Executive Director of the Policy Research Institute Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, Chief of the LDC Section of UNCTAD Dr. Rolf Traeger and Director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mr. Asif Ashraf. After panel discussion, the floor was opened for comments and recommendations from the participants. Subsequently, the Guest of Honor and the Chief Guest of the event delivered their remarks.



Hon'ble State Minister of the Ministry of Planning Dr. Shamsul Alam speaking during the workshop



ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan delivering the keynote presentation



Panelists speaking during the workshop



Participants of the workshop pose for a group photo

Major Recommendations

Climate Finance

- Since, LDCs are hardest hit among all the countries when it comes to the adverse impacts of the climate change without any significant contribution to the global greenhouse gas emission—the global community needs to consider additional policy and financial supports to the LDCs affected by the climate change impacts, before and after their graduation.
- Developed countries need to deliver on the \$100 billion finance per annum that they had promised to provide to the countries hit by climate change.
- Climate adaptation should receive much more attention and support- not only in terms of financing, but also in terms of technology development and transfer, capacity development and technical assistance.

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- There are further scopes for negotiations with the development partners, be it bilaterally or multilaterally, for increased financing in climate adaptation schemes.
 - The adoption of ‘loss and damage’ fund at the recently held COP27 conference has opened a new field for negotiations for increased climate financing, both bilaterally and multilaterally, for the LDCs.
 - Easier and cheaper access to financing for transitioning to renewable energy must be ensured.
 - Banks and financial institutions should come up with different types of financial instruments and mechanisms so that the private sector feel encouraged to participate in climate financing schemes.

Green Structural Transformation

- LDCs need to follow a balanced environmental approach with economic growth and social progress.
- LDCs need to double down in advancing goals on structural transformation, productive capacities development and industrialization.
- LDCs has to trade-offs short term priorities with long-term development agenda.
- LDCs need to intensify intra-regional trade and cooperation with neighbouring countries and improve the quality and diversity of their products and infrastructure.
- Increased environmental compliance can help Bangladesh’s domestic manufacturers to gain a larger share in the global market—which in turn, can help the country in diversifying its export basket.

Collaborative Role of Development and Trading Partners

- The climate action ambitions of the LDCs need to be strongly and decisively supported by their development partners.
- Trading partners should avoid policies that limit LDCs’ policy space and increase the likelihood of pollution havens.
- The principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDRRC) ” is critical for LDCs.

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- Unilateral environmental measures excluding LDCs might cause indirect but profound negative implications.
 - Global decarbonization challenge calls for a "systems reboot" in international support for LDCs with the most recurring appeals for funds in reaction to extreme weather crises.

Transfer and Adoption of Eco-friendly Technologies

- Adoption of eco-friendly technologies are extremely important for Bangladesh in transitioning towards green structural transformation—because of the multifarious impact they can have crucial sectors like agriculture, industry and climate resilient infrastructure.
- Bangladesh should start thinking of building necessary infrastructure for green transformation in transportation sector (e.g. electric vehicle). The concepts of virtual office or paperless office should also receive more attention.
- The recent volatility in energy market has provided additional impetus for transitioning towards eco-friendly energy options. Such transitioning towards renewable energy can also help the LDCs becoming more self-reliant.
- The country should be focusing on latest technology for power generation or other industrial activities and the government policies should be geared up towards that.
- Developed countries should provide technological and financial support to the private sector—especially the SMEs, for necessary technological adaptation needed for eco-friendly transformation.
- Bangladesh should look to attract foreign direct investment in renewable energy to facilitate relevant technology transfer.

Next courses of action

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change needs to have more integration with the relevant ministries to develop a much more environmentally sustainable roadmap. The ministry also needs to integrate its policies with the private sector and should engage with them in a productive manner.
- Rules and regulations regarding access to various climate related funds should be reviewed and simplified.

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- Regulatory process should be much more simplified to create an enabling environment for the private sector to adopt environment friendly technologies.
 - Bangladesh has formulated numerous environment and climate change related policies. However, going forward, effective implementation of these policies would be critical for ensuring a green development.