



**United
Nations**

Committee for
Development
Policy

**Statement by José Antonio Ocampo, Chair of the Committee for Development Policy
2025 ECOSOC High-Level Segment
July 24, 10:00-10:30am (virtual participation)**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to address the Council on behalf of the Committee for Development Policy, which held its 27th session from 24 to 28 February.

I would like to begin with the central message of our report: **the multilateral system for development is as important as ever. It needs to be strengthened, with a focus on effectiveness and delivering results for those furthest behind.**

In our report, we refer to how a number of structural shifts that are creating a world that is different from the one for which the current system was conceived have strengthened the need for multilateral action:

- The breaching of multiple planetary boundaries, which has put human lives and hard-fought development gains at risk;
- Widening inequalities in incomes, wealth, social opportunities and access to the global commons and natural capital;
- Major technological changes that present opportunities but also create severe disruptions, particularly in the labour market;
- A weakening of the capacity of States to invest and regulate in the public interest;
- The exacerbation of geopolitical and geoeconomic tensions; and
- A decline in commitments to the values of democracy, human rights, equality and solidarity.

Against this backdrop, historical challenges persist. Despite some notable successes in health and education, convergence in economic, social and environmental dimensions between and within countries over the past decades has been incomplete and fragile. Developing countries have not advanced sufficiently towards a structural transformation. As documented in [the Secretary-General's report](#), progress towards the SDGs has been slow and there has been regression on several targets.

At the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, we find ourselves at a crossroads. An effective multilateral system, aligned with current realities and challenges, is necessary. It is possible through innovation, pragmatism, inclusion and representation.

The **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development** is representative of both the challenges we face and of the global commitment to multilateralism. Much remains to be done in the international financial architecture. Our committee made several recommendations to this process, particularly on taxation and debt.

But the Conference and the Compromiso de Sevilla are major achievements as a reaffirmation of global commitment to multilateralism.

Of particular significance are the enhanced role envisaged for national and multilateral development banks in mobilizing resources for sustainable development, and the acknowledgement of the urgency of reversing declining trends in official development assistance. The call for the fulfilment of the long-standing commitment by most developed countries to achieve the targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries, and between 0.15 and 0.2 per cent for the least developed countries continues to be essential under the current context.

We now have to ensure close follow-up on the implementation of the commitments made. The Committee for Development Policy, which includes several experts on financing for development issues, is keen to contribute to this process.

The imperative of strengthening the multilateral development system and development cooperation is amplified by international events that have taken place since the CDP met in February, particularly in the area of **global trade**. Trade has been an important factor in lifting millions of people out of poverty across the world, including in many LDCs. However, the development gains of trade are neither guaranteed nor automatic, and without a solid multilateral framework, they are fragile, as we are seeing now.

Our Committee has closely followed, for decades, LDCs on the path to graduation. In doing so, we have witnessed the success of some countries in expanding their exports, including manufacturing exports and thereby creating jobs and generating fiscal resources to invest in health, education, and resilience-building. Preferential market access granted specifically to LDCs has been a key factor in these success stories. It is perhaps the most important LDC-specific international support measure currently in place. In fact, losing that advantage is one of the major concerns surrounding graduation from the LDC category. However, the graduation process and the policies of key trade partners include time to adapt and prepare, time to secure a “smooth transition”. The current tariff shock, on the other hand, leaves no time for a smooth transition. Some of the LDCs that have been most successful in developing their productive capacities and expanding their exports are likely to be among the hardest hit. LDCs in general, even those not particularly affected by the new tariffs, stand to lose from the consequences of uncertainty and slower growth worldwide.

In this regard, I would like once more to commend, on behalf of the CDP, the Compromiso de Sevilla and in particular its emphasis on the importance of the multilateral trading system and its call for actions to boost trade in the LDCs. We need a trade ecosystem anchored in a rules-based, fair, transparent and supportive multilateral trading system. The system must reflect asymmetries in global development and contemporary challenges and opportunities. It must also support integrated domestic policies that are in tune with the fast-changing global environment.

Excellencies,

The Committee’s second key message in the CDP’s report this year refers to **poverty eradication metrics: how poverty is measured, and how poverty goals are set, matter for the effectiveness of policy actions**. As we move towards the Second World Summit on Social Development and the

2030 deadline for the SDGs, we need evidence-based approaches and pragmatic solutions. The CDP made four recommendations for that effect.

First, it is crucial to report on global and national multidimensional poverty indices, alongside the international poverty line and national poverty measures. This combination of metrics makes the interlinkages between different dimensions of well-being or of deprivation visible. They can enable integrated, strategic policy responses that address multiple deprivations.

Second, use data disaggregated by factors such as location, age, gender, and other context-appropriate variables in poverty metrics. This is necessary to guide impactful policies that focus on the poorest groups and leave no one behind.

Third, put into evidence absolute changes in poverty rates, alongside measures of relative poverty reduction. This makes the successes in the poorest countries visible, which is critical for recognition, sustained support, and learning from each other.

And finally, clearly communicate data and information on poverty and poverty reduction – including the successes and the policy action that led to them – in order to inform action by governments and other stakeholders.

I now turn to the Committee's work on **the least developed countries**.

We remain highly concerned about the difficult external environment that LDCs face in their pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals and their own national development goals. I have already referred to the challenges generated by disruptions in the global trading system. Other critical challenges include the mounting impacts of climate change, armed conflicts, long-lasting negative effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, macroeconomic challenges, and reductions in official development assistance. Our monitoring of countries that are graduating or have recently graduated from the category reveals limited national capacities to address these challenges by even the furthest ahead among these countries.

Despite several success stories, many LDCs have not benefitted from the international support measures designed for the category. Moreover, today's challenges are very different from what they were at the inception of the category more than 50 years ago. We therefore believe there is

a need for an inclusive process to thoroughly rethink the support given to LDCs, particularly those furthest behind. Graduating countries, on the other hand, need better incentives and support for graduation and a smooth transition that will ensure their development is resilient and their graduation sustainable.

The graduation process also needs improvement. The Committee developed a series of proposals in the graduation procedures. While some will be implemented by the Committee within its existing mandates, others could be considered within a process to update the existing resolutions on smooth transition from the LDC category. An updated and consolidated resolution would provide greater clarity, certainty and efficiency to the process. Most importantly, it would be an opportunity to strengthen support for graduation and a smooth transition. We are ready to engage in such a process.

Finally, we would like to commend the active participation of the countries currently engaging in the enhanced monitoring mechanism for graduating and recently graduated countries. The Committee continues to make improvements to the mechanism to better address the needs of graduating and graduated countries.

Mr. President,

The Committee for Development Policy commends you on your leadership over the course of this cycle and looks forward to continuous engagement with the Council going forward.

Thank you.