



## **SUPPORTING COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS**



# **UN DESA HIGHLIGHTS 2025**

## Turning commitments into action for SIDS

UN DESA has played a critical role in mobilizing coordinated UN support to advance sustainable development priorities for SIDS, as identified at the SIDS4 in May 2024. Serving as joint secretariat alongside UN-OHRLLS, the Department was instrumental in supporting the Secretary-General's Inter-agency Task Force in developing the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the ABAS. This Framework, owned and led by SIDS, will be a key tool for tracking progress, promoting accountability, and accelerating action toward the SDGs.

At the same time, UN DESA actively supported the co-chairs of the UN Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS in crafting recommendations to strengthen the SIDS Partnerships Framework. Drawing on extensive consultations with Member States, UN entities, and a wide range of stakeholders, these efforts focused on enhancing the effectiveness, transparency, and

accountability of partnerships. The goal was to ensure that partnership initiatives are better aligned with ABAS priorities and deliver tangible, measurable development outcomes for SIDS.

## Rallying support for Haiti

Haiti, which is both an LDC and a SIDS country, faces a complex crisis with political, security, human rights, development, and humanitarian challenges. In 2024–2025, UN DESA played a key role in galvanizing international attention and action to address the crisis facing Haiti, with a particular emphasis on the urgent needs of children and youth. The Department provided substantive support to the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, and building on the work of the Group, facilitated to organize a special ECOSOC meeting, “Haiti’s Children Cannot Wait,” held on 2 December 2024. The meeting issued a Call to Action to rally the international community to strengthen support for Haiti’s stability, resilience, and



President of ECOSOC at its 2025 session, H.E. Mr. Bob Rae (Canada), addresses the special meeting on the theme “Haiti’s Children Cannot Wait: Supporting Stability, Resilience and Prosperity in Haiti,” December 2025, New York. | UN PHOTO/ESKINDER DEBEBE



Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, addresses the General Assembly on behalf of the Like-Minded Group in support of Middle-income Countries at the high-level meeting on Middle-Income Countries, 1 April 2025. | UN PHOTO/LOEY FELIPE

prosperity. Building on this momentum, the Department also contributed to the joint ECOSOC–Peacebuilding Commission meeting held in June 2025, which reinforced the need to align peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development efforts, and called for sustained, coordinated international support to help Haiti achieve a more secure and prosperous future.

process, the Department’s work led to an updated process for the CDP’s triennial review of the list of LDCs, making it more transparent and responsive to possible disruptions in graduation processes. At the same time, UN DESA ramped up its support to middle-income countries, offering in-depth analysis and convening policy discussions to tackle persistent structural barriers holding back their progress.

### **Supporting LDC graduation and middle-income country challenges**

UN DESA supported countries on the path to sustainable development, driving forward tailored international support mechanisms to eradicate poverty and achieve the SDGs. Its work with the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), for example, has been critical in tracking the progress of countries transitioning out of the LDC category. While 11 countries under enhanced monitoring remain on track for sustainable graduation, they continue to face significant hurdles—including climate change impacts, armed conflict, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and declining official development assistance (ODA). To strengthen the graduation

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**CDP’s rigorous technical oversight, as evidenced in its reports, remains indispensable in upholding the integrity of the LDC category while navigating evolving global challenges.**

**H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa**  
 Permanent Representative of Nepal,  
 Chair of the LDC Group

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High-level representatives from the Government of the Dominican Republic and UN DESA convene during a Financing for Small Island Developing States (FINS) workshop. | UN DESA.

## **Strengthening financing systems in SIDS through tailored national support**

UN DESA, with support from Italy and Denmark, is helping small island developing States (SIDS) unlock more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable financing pathways through the innovative Financing for SIDS (FINS) initiative. As a key channel to deliver tailored assistance, FINS builds on the integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) to provide hands-on, country-specific support. It integrates financing advisors into national planning teams, working directly with governments to design and implement financing strategies aligned with national development plans and the SDGs. FINS has been actively

supporting the Dominican Republic, Seychelles, Fiji, and Vanuatu, contributing to a wide range of efforts, from SDG budget tagging and financing strategy development to post-disaster recovery planning and capacity-building.

## **Unlocking the development potential of critical energy transition minerals**

Critical minerals—such as cobalt, lithium, and copper—are rapidly emerging as catalysts for poverty eradication, energy transition, and technological progress. Harnessing these resources effectively in developing countries holds immense potential to drive inclusive economic growth, generate quality employment, improve

infrastructure, strengthen technological capabilities, and boost government revenues to fund essential public services. However, realizing these benefits requires robust governance, strong institutions, and targeted investments. Low-income countries, in particular, must address structural barriers, including inadequate infrastructure and limited human capital. UN DESA plays a key role in supporting data-informed innovation and sustainable industrial transformation in Member States.

In one “Future of the World” [policy brief](#), for instance, UN DESA highlighted how enhanced international cooperation will be essential to bridge investment gaps, accelerate technology transfer, and scale up skills development. In its July 2025 edition of the [Frontier Technology Issues \(FTI\)](#), the Department also showcased how developing countries can tap into the potential of transforming recycling waste and scrap into a strategic source of critical minerals—reducing reliance on primary extraction, fostering green job creation, and advancing progress toward the SDGs.



### Driving resilient recovery and strategic foresight in small island developing States

In 2024–2025, UN DESA supported five small island developing States (SIDS)—Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Mauritius, and Seychelles—to strengthen recovery planning through forward-looking, integrated approaches. By building capacities in systems thinking, strategic foresight, CLEWs (Climate, Land, Energy, and Water systems) modelling, and forest financing strategies, UN DESA is enabling these countries in special situations to pursue development strategies that are adaptive, cross-sectoral, and aligned with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). These tools were delivered through national workshops, inter-ministerial coordination, and integration into development and financing frameworks.