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eleven in Asia and the Pacific and one in Latin America.

Brussels Programme of Action

Source: World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023

Investing in LDCs to leave no one behind

Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

of the 45. However, despite an aggregate fall of 13% in adolescent birth rates, teen

Investing in youth and education: In 2022, 21.9% of children in primary-school-age literacy rate rose from 57% to 66% between 2013 and 2023, more than 360 million

Promoting maternal and child health and wellbeing:

dropped to 3.96 births per woman in 2022. Also, 73% of births in the LDCs were attended by a skilled health professional, up from 61% in 2015.

Universal Social Protection:

protection compared to other developing nations. Only 14% are covered by at least one area of social protection, excluding healthcare and sickness benefits. Only 6.2% of the labour force (and just 4.2% of women in the labour force) actively



significant increase of scientific publications between 2000-2020, faster than

LDCs plays a significant role in advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation and bridging the digital gap between those online and offline.



Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity in the LDCs

Agriculture:

primary source of income in rural areas. There is consequently significant potential

reflects the need for LDCs to diversify their economies to build resilience.

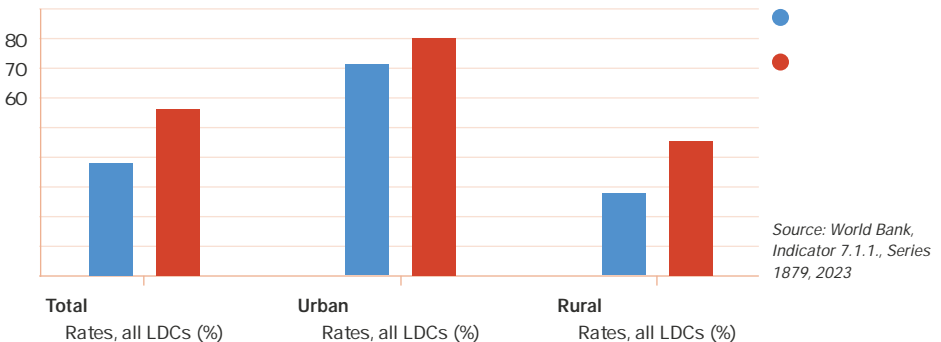
Productive Capacity:

formalization and the application of new technologies – all of which figure

a role to play internationally in building their profile in global supply chains, as well

Energy: Access to electricity in the LDCs increased substantially from 37.8% in 2012 to 56.3% in 2021. However, there remains a large disparity between rural and urban areas: 80.3% in towns and cities and only 45.5% in rural areas. To bridge

Access to electricity (%)



Enhancing the participation of LDCs in international trade and regional integration

Trade and Commodities: Between 2018 and 2022, LDCs' exports of goods and services increased at an average annual rate of 7.1%. In 2022, LDCs' goods exports particularly benefited from high energy prices, leading to an annual growth of 17.4%. The LDCs' share in world exports of goods and commercial services increased from 0.95% in 2021 to 1% in 2022. Export growth of LDCs was mainly driven by commercial services (27%) while merchandise exports grew by 14.4% in 2022.

Volatility in commodity prices continue to impact LDC growth prospects, with 38 of the least developed countries classified as commodity dependent in 2023.

2022 2023, Q1 expor2

Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation

Domestic Resource Mobilization:

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2. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/dsalist.pdf>
 3. <https://unctad.org/news/foreign-investment-least-developed-countries-fell-16-2022>

un.org/ohrlls

