



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
30 November 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 9

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Guyana:* revised draft resolution

Graduation of Vanuatu from the least developed country category

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [59/209](#) of 20 December 2004, [67/221](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/18](#) of 4 December 2013 and [70/78](#) of 9 December 2015,

Reaffirming its commitment to the process of graduation from least developed country status and to encouraging smooth transition measures for graduating countries beyond graduation and towards achieving sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹

Giving due consideration to the destruction caused on the northern islands of Vanuatu in early April 2020 by Cyclone Harold, the second category-5 storm to hit the country in five years, adding to the immense challenges of rebuilding that Vanuatu has been facing,

Noting with concern the negative consequences for the vulnerable small island developing economy of Vanuatu due to the closure of its borders, under a state of emergency, aimed at keeping the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at bay,

Inviting the international community to continue to generously support the rehabilitation and disaster preparedness efforts undertaken by the Government of Vanuatu as well as its recovery plan,

1. *Commends* the commitment of Vanuatu to graduate from the category of least developed countries on 4 December 2020, and in this regard welcomes the adoption by the Government of the Vanuatu smooth transition strategy;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the severe consequences for Vanuatu of both Cyclone Harold in early April 2020 and the closure of its borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).



3. *Invites* bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners to provide full support to the implementation of the Vanuatu smooth transition strategy, including by extending international support measures, in particular those related to trade, as appropriate, aid for trade and participation in international forums, until 4 December 2025;

4. *Underlines* the exceptional nature of this decision, taken in the context of the unique disruption caused to the economic and social progress of Vanuatu by Cyclone Harold and the COVID-19 pandemic.
