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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.

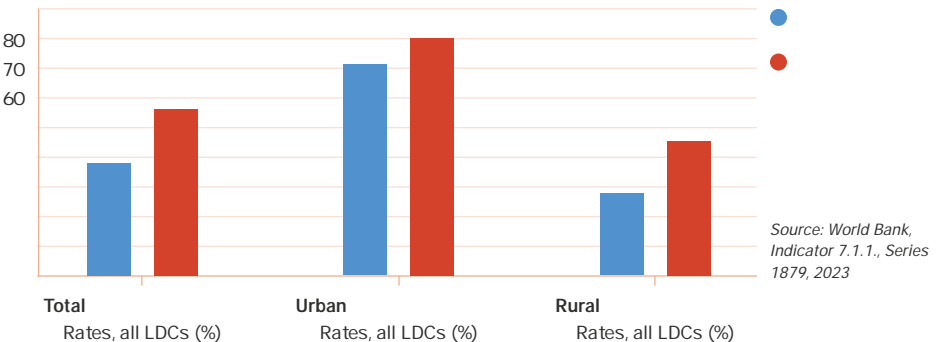
### Productive Capacity:

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](https://un.org/ohrlls)

