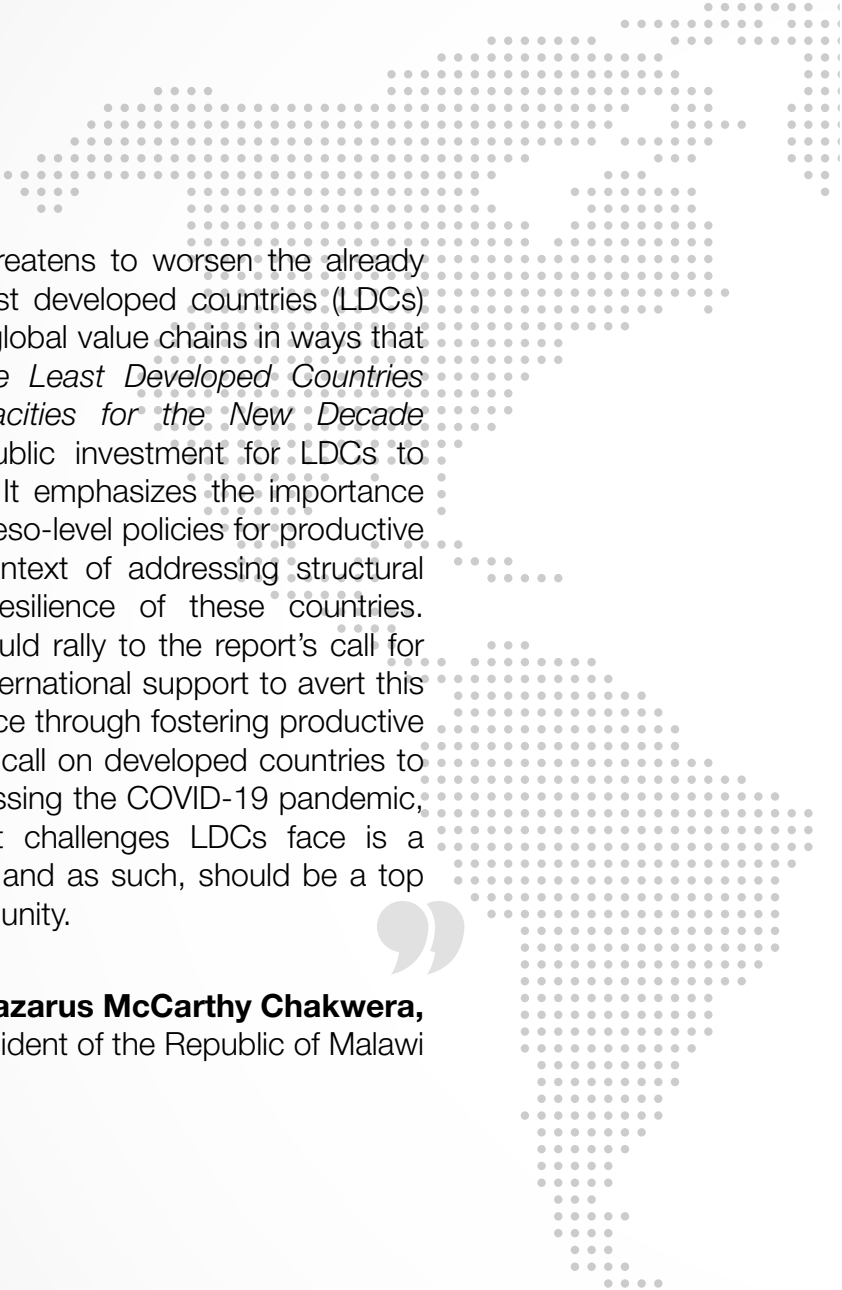




THE LEAST  
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES  
REPORT 2020

Productive capacities for the new decade





“ A prolonged COVID-19 crisis threatens to worsen the already weak economic base of the least developed countries (LDCs) and has effectively reconfigured global value chains in ways that further disadvantage LDCs. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2020: Productive Capacities for the New Decade* highlights the importance of public investment for LDCs to address their short-term needs. It emphasizes the importance of comprehensive support for meso-level policies for productive capacity development in the context of addressing structural constraints and building the resilience of these countries. The international community should rally to the report’s call for greater solidarity and stronger international support to avert this crisis and build long-term resilience through fostering productive capacities. In this context, I also call on developed countries to understand that much like addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, tackling the acute development challenges LDCs face is a multilateral issue par excellence, and as such, should be a top priority for the international community.”

**H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera,**  
President of the Republic of Malawi



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# Note

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The overview of this report can also be found on the Internet as a separate document, in all six official languages of the United Nations, at: [www.unctad.org/ldcr](http://www.unctad.org/ldcr)

## **Main text**

The term “dollars” (\$) refers to United States dollars unless otherwise specified.

The term “billion” signifies 1,000 million.

Annual rates of growth and changes refer to compound rates.

Exports are valued “free on board” and imports, on a “cost, insurance, freight” basis, unless otherwise specified.

Use of a dash (–) between dates representing years, e.g. 1981–1990, signifies the full period involved, including the initial and final years. A slash (/) between two years, e.g. 1991/92, signifies a fiscal or crop year.

Throughout the report, the term “least developed country” refers to a country included in the United Nations list of least developed countries.

The terms “country” and “economy”, as appropriate, also refer to territories or areas.

## **Tables**

Two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not separately reported.

One dot (.) indicates that the data are not applicable.

A dash (–) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

Details and percentages do not necessarily add up to totals, because of rounding.

## **Figures**

Some figures contain country names abbreviated using ISO (International Organization for Standardization) alpha-3 codes, which can be consulted at: <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search>.

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