



3rd United Nations
Conference on the
Landlocked Developing
Countries

High-level Africa Regional Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

29-30 May 2023

Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel and Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana

Draft Annotated Programme

DAY 1 (29 May)	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-09:10	Election of the bureau Chaired by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), and Secretary General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs
09:10 – 09:15	Video Presentation
09:15 - 09:45	Opening session Theme: <i>“From Vienna to Kigali: towards a new decade of partnerships for a transformative Programme of Action for LLDCs”</i> Chair: Government of Botswana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honourable Mmusi Kgafela, M.P, Minister of Trade and Industry, Botswana Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), Secretary General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) <p><i>(Stage set-up: One podium on stage for the speaker and 3 seats)</i></p>
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break
10:00-10:20	<p>Briefing on the status of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA)</p> <p><i>This session will give an overview on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA), highlighting challenges, opportunities and lessons learned. This will also focus on how we can use these lessons for a more ambitious Programme of Action for the next decade, which will have stronger and better monitoring and follow-up mechanism.</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Policy Coordination, Development, Monitoring and Reporting Service, UN-OHRLLS (Global perspective) Mr. Stephen Karingi, Director of Regional Integration and Trade, UN-ECA (Regional perspective)
10:20 - 13:00	<p>HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: Implementation of the VPoA and fostering achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in LLDCs: Lessons learned and building back better</p> <p><i>In this session ministers and other high-level participants will reflect on the progress achieved during the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, identify achievements, challenges and vulnerabilities. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging and overlapping global challenges on LLDCs will be discussed. Lessons learned, including through national recovery plans, and policy recommendations for a transformative programme of action for LLDCs in the next decade, will be shared.</i></p> <p>Chair: Government of Botswana</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers and Heads of Delegation from African LLDCs, transit countries and Development Partners present statements <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key achievements from the implementation of the VPoA priority areas?</i> • <i>What are the challenges faced including the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflicts in different parts of the world, and other emerging challenges?</i> • <i>What are some of the opportunities that have presented themselves in course of implementation, such as, the AfCFTA?</i> • <i>What key recommendations including policies and tangible initiatives are necessary to achieve a transformative LLDCs Programme of Action for the next decade.</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: Ministers and Heads of delegations will speak from their seats. On the podium Government of Botswana and OHRLS)</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:15	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Priorities of the next programme of action for LLDCs</p> <p><i>This session will discuss possible elements and initiatives to further accelerate COVID-19 Pandemic recovery, achievement of the SDGs and for agreeing on an ambitious and action-oriented programme of action for LLDCs for the next decade.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panellist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLDC • RECs • FAO • Transit country • Development Partner <p>Interactive discussions</p> <p>Guiding Question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What targets, commitments and deliverables are needed for making the next programme of action for LLDCs a truly transformative one, especially for contributing to the acceleration of the achievement of the SDGs in African LLDCs?</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 5 chairs/seats for the Moderator and 4 panelists)</i></p>
15:15- 17:00	PANEL DISCUSSION 2: Advancing cooperation on transit and trade facilitation for LLDCs trade competitiveness.

	<p><i>The session will discuss and share experiences on progress made, challenges, opportunities and best practices in enhancing transit and trade facilitation in both LLDCs and their transit neighbors. It will also review progress made on regional and global frameworks for transit and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Opportunities for both LLDCs and transit countries as well as policy recommendations for the next decade will be identified.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCTAD • WTO • Transit country • Corridor Organization <p>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the new decade <i>(Delegations and participants to inscribe)</i></p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What have been the key achievements in improving transit and trade facilitation in the region? What have been the major challenges and how to overcome those?</i> • <i>What are the priority actions to enable LLDCs to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services in transit?</i> • <i>What kind of technical and financial support is needed from the development partners, UN, international and regional organizations to assist LLDCs in building institutional and sustainable human capacity aimed at promoting transit and trade facilitation?</i> • <i>How can the role of the private sector be enhanced to facilitate trade facilitation and transit, including through public private partnerships?</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 5 chairs/seats for the Moderator and 4 panelists)</i></p>
DAY 2 (30 May)	
08:30-09:45	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 3: Achieving seamless and sustainable connectivity through transport and ICT infrastructure</p> <p><i>The session will discuss and share experiences on progress made, challenges, opportunities and best practices in improving connectivity for the LLDCs, including both the hard transport infrastructure and soft infrastructure. This will also provide recommendations to build capacity and partnerships to enhance transport and ICT</i></p>

	<p><i>connectivity of the LLDCs. Discussions will include scaling up mobilization of financing, including development of a pipeline of bankable projects and enhancing the role of the private sector.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNECA • AUC • African Development Bank • Transit country <p>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the new decade <i>(Delegations and participants to inscribe)</i></p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key achievements in improving transport and ICT connectivity for the LLDCs – in terms of both the physical infrastructure and the soft infrastructure? What have been the major challenges?</i> • <i>What are the best practices and lessons learned from the development and management of transit transport corridors in different (sub-)regions?</i> • <i>What are the key recommendations to strengthen financing, technical assistance and partnerships for transit transport and ICT connectivity? How can private sector involvement in national and regional infrastructure projects be enhanced?</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 5 chairs/seats for the Moderator and 4 panelists)</i></p>
09:45 - 11:00	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 4: Leveraging the AfCFTA and regional integration to boost LLDCs trade capacities and structural economic transformation</p> <p><i>This session will discuss challenges as well as explore opportunities for LLDCs to leverage the AfCFTA to enhance their trade and export diversification. It will also discuss how competitiveness of African LLDCs can be improved to achieve structural economic transformation.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNECA • UNIDO • RECs • Private sector

	<p>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the new decade <i>(Delegations and participants to inscribe)</i></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What kind of priority policy options and concrete steps could be adopted at national, regional, and global levels to boost intra-regional and international trade in goods and services by African LLDCs?</i> • <i>How can LLDCs' participation in Global and Regional Value Chains be enhanced?</i> • <i>What are the drivers of e-commerce at the national level, and what kind of measures and policy frameworks should be put in place to support LLDCs to build up their competitiveness in goods and services through e-commerce?</i> • <i>How can LLDCs create and sustain competitive industries, encourage value-addition and promote deeper integration into the global economy? What kind of support do they need from their development partners, the UN, other international and regional organizations? How can the role of the private sector be enhanced in order to achieve structural economic transformation?</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 5 chairs/seats for the Moderator and 4 panelists)</i></p>
11:00-11-15	COFFEE BREAK
11:15 – 12:30	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 5: Building resilience to climate change, and accelerating the energy transition in African LLDCs</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the impact of climate change on LLDCs and explore how adaptation to climate change and disaster resilience efforts relate to the sustainable development of African LLDCs. It will also discuss mechanisms and approaches that could contribute to resilience building. The discussion will focus on ending energy poverty and the important role clean and renewable energy play in building climate-resilient development pathways. It will also explore workable solutions and mechanisms that could contribute to a better anchoring of resilience and sustainability issues as part of a new Programme of Action.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNECA • REC • LLDCs <p>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the new decade <i>(Delegations and participants to inscribe)</i></p>

	<p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What was the impact of climate change on the implementation of the VPoA over the review period in LLDCs and for transboundary sectors such as transport, ICT and energy infrastructure?</i> • <i>What are the available solutions and tools, technical assistance and financing available to support climate change mitigation, adaptation and building of resilience in tackling climate change for LLDCs? How can LLDCs benefit from better access to affordable climate finance to fund climate adaptation and mitigation measures and the development of resilient?</i> • <i>What are the experiences, best practices and recommendations for mobilizing investments to scale up renewable energy in the LLDCs?</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 5 chairs/seats for the Moderator and 4 panelists)</i></p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:45	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 6: Means of implementation, partnerships, and follow-up and review</p> <p><i>This session will discuss experiences in domestic and international resource mobilization and discusses ways to facilitate the mobilization of the required resources, including innovative finance, to promote sustainable development in the African LLDCs and enhance resilience to various shocks. The discussion will focus on how to enhance the abilities of countries to leverage domestic resources and take full advantage of international support, such as financial sector reform, domestic resource mobilization, development of adequate financial infrastructure or risk reduction instruments, including South-South cooperation. It will also look at how to increase debt sustainability, especially after the deteriorations due to COVID-19.</i></p> <p>Moderator: LLDCs</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Development Bank • African Capacity Building Foundation • Afrexim Bank • Development Partner • World Bank Group <p>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the new decade <i>(Delegations and participants to inscribe)</i></p>

	<p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the achievements on means of implementation to the LLDCs, the challenges, and the key actions and recommendations that can be included in the new decade? How can the UN development system better support the LLDCs on means of implementation in the new decade? How can the private sector be leveraged to contribute to means of implementation</i> • <i>What are the international and regional initiatives to support the LLDCs to increase debt sustainability and sustainable recovery?</i> • <i>How can monitoring and follow-up of the VPoA be further improved and integrated with the SDGs and other development processes.</i> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 5 chairs/seats for the Moderator and 4 panelists)</i></p>
14:45-15:00	COFFEE BREAK
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Consideration and adoption of the Outcome and Closing Session <i>In this session the outcome document will be adopted.</i></p> <p>Chair: Government of Botswana</p> <p>Introduction of the Outcome by Chair of the Regional Review Meeting.</p> <p>Adoption of the Outcome</p> <p><i>(Stage set-up: 4 chairs/seats for the Chair, USG and Rapporteur)</i></p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Chair: Government of Botswana</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) • Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), Secretary General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs • Honourable Mmusi Kgafela, M.P, Minister of Trade and Industry, Botswana (Botswana to confirm)



	<p><i>(Stage set-up: 3 chairs/seats for the Chair, USG, UNECA)</i></p>
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