

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries

2. **We express concern** that the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LLDCs is continuing unabated with little signs of a recovery. LLDCs continue to face multifaceted negative effects ranging from strained health services, job losses, increased poverty and food insecurity, disruptions in global supply chains and border restrictions to reduced economic growth, declining exports, decreased transport services, falling remittances, low levels of private investment and a near halt in tourism. We call on the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, to take the necessary steps to effectively coordinate and follow up on the efforts of the United Nations system to promote and ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment needed to address COVID-19;
3. **We stress** that as we head into the final stretches of the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action, efforts towards both need to be reoriented to incorporate the long-term impact of COVID-19, building of more equal, inclusive and sustainable institutions and the nurturing of resilient economies. Towards this end, a transformative recovery aimed at reducing vulnerability to future crises and ensuring that LLDCs can make the necessary progress towards achieving the SDGs and respond to the ambition and the urgency of the Vienna Programme of Action is paramount;
4. **We reiterate** the importance of fostering strong synergy and coherence at all levels in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Vienna Programme of Action with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other development processes including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
5. **We recognize** the central role of

8. **We express deep concern** that a growing number of people are currently facing food insecurity since all the indicators of food insecurity have continued to exhibit a deteriorating trend due to COVID-19. In this regard, we call upon the international community especially our development partners to enhance their financial and in-kind support and the United Nations and other

22. **We reiterate** our call for support to the LLDCs and transit countries in developing bankable implementable infrastructure projects that are financially viable, environmentally friendly and accepted by the local communities and we call on the UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations to enhance their technical support to LLDCs to develop sustainable infrastructure;
23. **We underscore** the significance of international transport and economic corridors for reducing trade costs and promoting regional sustainable development, and request for strengthening of the role of corridor management organizations and other sub-regional and inter-regional arrangements and upon the LLDCs and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, such as inland waterways, roads, rail networks, ports and pipelines;
24. **We call** on the UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide further policT

digital infrastructure connectivity; supporting intraregional trade and the development of regional value chains; improving the quality and effective implementation of

stress that such support is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

49. **We commit** to strengthening our national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda in order to provide high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics and to fully integrate the Goals and targets in our monitoring and reporting systems. We call on increased capacity-building and technical support to LLDCs, from all sources, to strengthen their national statistical systems;
50. **We call** on the UN system to focus its activities in support of LLDCs to build a sustainable economic and social recovery that leaves no one behind and enable them to overcome the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to make substantial progress in implementing the VPoA and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
51. **We invite** the UN system to incorporate within its planned activities to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LLDCs, identify lessons learned from past and present epidemics and pandemics and recommendations for improving future preparedness for epidemics and pandemics;
52. **We welcome** the progress achieved by the Secretary-General in the repositioning of the United Nations development system, and look forward to the timely implementation of outstanding mandates pertaining to the repositioning of the regional assets and the multi-country office review, under national ownership and leadership. Given the cross-boundary nature of the development issues of LLDCs, we would like to stress that the regional assets are reformed in such a way that they are better able to support the special development needs of the LLDCs;
53. **We call on** the Resident Coordinators and the UN Country teams to support mainstreaming of the goals and priorities set out in the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs and the SDGs into national development plans and strategies in LLDCs and transit countries and to assist the LLDCs in addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19;
54. **We note** the importance of establishing an National Focal Points network comprised of capital-based national focal points to facilitate the strengthening of coherence and coordination of the implementation and follow up of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global frameworks including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement at the national level/ppgef6

57. **We are strongly committed** to lead the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the

coordinated follow-up

71. **We underscore** the need for closer cooperation to promote the intETQ7 9 40r20-