

Contribution of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) for  
the Report of the Secretary General on the Implementation of the Vienna  
Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries for the  
Decade 2014-2024

II. An overview of recent socio-economic development in landlocked developing  
countries including impact of COVID-19 pandemic and building back better

Through the Interdepartmental Taskforce on African Affairs (IDTFAA), the Office of the  
Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), in close collaboration with DPAO, UNDP, ECA  
and other UN system entities, coordinated to deliver the Secretary General's policy brief  
on "the Impact of COVID-19 in Africa" published in 20 May 2020. The policy brief  
aimed at supporting the response of African countries including LLDCs, to COVID-19  
to prevent, mitigate and address the multifaceted crisis. It examined the disproportionate  
impact of the pandemic on Africa, highlighted Africa's swift response and called for a  
strong global solidarity to bolster Africa's efforts including for long post COVID  
19 recovery. Several recommendations were proposed in the policy brief to strengthen h0DJ 0 (e)4

situations, reaching the most vulnerable in L

African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, namely (i) strengthening the means of implementation of the SDGs in Africa: finance, policy and institutional coherence; (ii) promoting peaceful and inclusive societies by Silencing the Guns in Africa; (iii) promoting a universal, rules based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system opportunity to fulfill by supporting the AfCFTA; (iv) leveraging science, technology and innovation for SDG implementation; and (v) promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for Africa's development against the backdrop of the COVID pandemic. Analyzing the status of implementation of these commitments from an analytical and data based perspective and with an African lens, the report provides policy recommendations to close the gaps, where progress is lagging, and accelerate the implementation of the commitments. Given that Africa accounts for half of global LLDCs, inferences might be drawn from the analyses presented in this report to other LLDCs.