





be undertaken next year in different regions. He then informed the meeting that the Africa (ECA) and Asia (ESCAP) regions have passed resolutions calling upon their member states to mainstream the VPoA at the annual sessions of their Commissions this year.

Mr. Acharya highlighted that his office, with support from most of the present organizations, organized the High-level follow-up meeting in Livingstone that was generously hosted by the Government of Zambia. He applauded the Livingstone Call for Action for highlighting the need to double the

from the meeting was the need for coherence in implementing the different development agendas and programmes of action - the Vienna Programme of Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the Trade Facilitation Agreement and others. He further believed that it is crucial that all these programmes are integrated so that the LLDCs are able to mainstream, implement and report on all the development agendas in an integrated manner without duplication.

The High Representative stressed that the international organisations have to work even more closely in helping the LLDCs to mainstream not only the VPoA, but also Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Climate Change Agreement and the Trade Facilitation Agreement in a coherent and integrated manner. He believed that they need to help the LLDCs come up with an integrated package of indicators and ways of reporting on progress so that they do not have to undertake repetitive work in fulfilling these commitments.

Mr. Acharya was very encouraged that in future more attention at the global level will be accorded to the countries in special situations, including the LLDCs. He cited the example that the High Level Political Forum will adopt an integrated follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and will pay particular attention to vulnerable groups and countries in special situations. He

of Action and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and the need for enhanced partnerships to

Mr. Erdenebileg highlighted the linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA, stating that the AAAA is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the full

development plans in a coherent manner; and that there is a need to find ways of supporting the LLDCs to monitor the programmes in an integrated way.

**D. Presentation of the updated Roadmap; progress on Mainstreaming; and Indicators for following up the VPoA**

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South Asia		
E-learning Course on Transit for Customs Administration	WCO	January-March 2016
Development of Transit Guidelines	WCO	2016-2017
Introduction of TIR System in Africa and Latin America	IRU	2016-2017
Improvement of Support Infrastructure through Implementation of Model Highway Initiative	IRU	2016-2017



made with regards to mainstreaming the VPoA into their work or their support to mainstreaming efforts by countries.

With regards to the development of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the VPoA, Ms. Mutangadura reminded the meeting that the draft of the set of indicators was shared with this group in the last meeting, and that their previous comments were incorporated. She said that the draft was also presented at the Livingstone meeting in June this year, and that the comments made by the Member States present there were incorporated. She added that they have also shared the draft with the LLDC Membership at their last Ambassadorial meeting and at the national workshop on mainstreaming the VPoA in Botswana.

Ms. Mutangadura continued by saying that they

on concessional financing compared to developing countries as a whole. The data also indicate that there is a necessity for major providers to better target specific sectors that are particularly  
The Secretariat is also preparing the High-Level Meeting of the DAC planned for 18-19 February 2016 where DAC Ministers will take stock of the progress made.

Mr. Delalande also mentioned the joint OECD-WTO report that focused on reducing trade costs for sustainable growth entitled "*Aid for Trade at a Glance: Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth*". The report, which was launched in June 2015, was a truly collaborative effort among several partner institutions including the World Bank, the Executive Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD and the World Economic Forum. As is very often highlighted, Land-locked, remote, and small economies are marginalised by costs that reflect geography, not capability. The report clearly shows that while producers for example in low-income countries are often competitive at the farm and factory gate, they are priced out of the international market, because of cumbersome border procedures, poor infrastructure, lack of finance, and complex standards. The report calls for a redoubling of

poorest and most fragile economies. The publication looks at how further, concerted action would help contribute to the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Mr. Delalande encouraged participants to read and share the report, which cites many examples of how trade barriers can be overcome. He indicated that the report is available online on the OECD website (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/aid-for-trade-at-a-glance-22234411.htm>)

The representative of the **UNECA, Mr. Soteri Gatera**, highlighted the importance of structural transformation, particularly through commodity based industrialization and trade, towards the economic development of LLDCs. He stated that in order to enhance the capacity of African Member States and regional economic commissions to develop and implement policies and programs in the areas of international and intra-African trade, in 2014-2015 particular emphasis was placed on the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), Mega-Regional Trade Agreements (MRTAs), a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT), and multilateral trade negotiations.

Furthermore, Mr. Gatera stated that African Heads of State and Government endorsed an African Union (AU) *African Trade and the establishment of the*, and he believes that establishing the CFTA is imperative for Africa to boosting intraregional trade and supporting structural transformation. He mentioned that CFTA negotiations were officially launched at the AU Summit on 15 June 2015 (following the launch of the Tripartite Free Trade Area on 10 June 2015), and that the ECA has been very supportive of the process leading to the launch of the CFTA negotiations and currently during the negotiations phase.

Mr. Gatera explained that with regards to the Boosting Intra-African Trade initiative, the ECA is providing technical assistance to Member States and RECs in the formulation and validation of national/regional Actions Plans for Boosting Intra-African Trade. He indicated that the objective



Ms. Neufeld stated that the WTO has continued its resource mobilization efforts, and that Aid-for-Trade flows increased to US\$ 56.7 billion in 201

Mr. Osawa announced that in 2016, the WCO is planning to organize three more workshops, with the Global Accreditation Workshop, planned for March being a particular unique one. Mr. Osawa concluded by saying that the WCO will organize an event focusing on the implementation of trade facilitation during the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of WTO in Nairobi, with transit as one of the main topics of the event.

The representative of **OSAA, Mr. Ben Idrissa Ouedraogo**, stated that they have been supportive of the implementation and mainstreaming of the VPoA, Agenda 2030 and AAAA development priorities.

of the VPoA. On fundamental transit policy issues and regional integration and cooperation, OSAA has been providing a global UHIPP02HGUDR onom1 282.89 \*nBT-4()(a)4(-)289(o2 Tmuni)8( )] T

September 2015, five African Heads of State and Government engaged with 250 members of the global investment community.

Mr. Ouedraogo finished by saying that OSAA has been carrying its advocacy activities for the private sector, member states and regional institutions.

The representative of **DESA, Ms. Ling Wang**, underscored the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stressed the special needs of LLDCs in achieving sustainable development, including on means of implementation, indicators, infrastructure, implementation of VPoA, and on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Ms. Wang informed the meeting that following the mandate of the 2030 Agenda, DESA was currently preparing the SG report to the General Assembly on follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, a questionnaire was shared with Member States, UN agencies and other stakeholders; more than 110 Member States provided their views either individually or through regional groupings. She stated that the report will be finalized in December 2015, and then the President of the General Assembly will decide how to organize consideration of the report.

Ms. Wang

question pertaining to LLDCs: ely make linkages with the follow-up and review arrangements of United Nations conferences and processes on (1) least developed countries (LDCs), (2) small island developing States (SIDS), and (3) and landloc She then highlighted some responses, namely that the HLPF should consider on a regular basis a session devoted to addressing the issues affecting LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, in the broader context of the global implementation of the Agenda.

Ms. Wang then informed the meeting that DESA is also preparing for the 2016 HLPF, which -fledged session, and that the commitment of the international community may well be measured by the success of the session. A number of countries have already expressed interest in conducting national reviews during the 2016 HLPF. The national reviews would focus on showcasing how countries are preparing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For preparing 2016 HLPF, the ECOSOC President organised a retreat on 21 and 22 November 2015 in New York. The retreat focused on how to organize HLPF in 2016 starting with the implementation and review of Agenda 2030, and participants at the retreat included members of delegations, representatives of the UN System and Major Groups.

Ms. Wang concluded that it would be beneficial for LLDCs to contribute to the consultations of the President of the General Assembly on follow up and review of the Agenda, to contribute to the global sustainable transport outlook report, t -level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG) in 2016, and to participate in the global sustainable transport conference, to be held towards the end of 2016.

The representative of **UNE**

Mr. Runov commented that there is an urgent need to re-think the design of financing at the regional level to promote infrastructure development. The structure of financing models should change to spread not only the benefit but also to promote the sharing of risk among countries that benefit from improved transport infrastructure. This will accelerate progress and promote shared responsibility for transport development, and in the larger sense, it will contribute to promoting regional integration.

Mr. Runov informed the meeting that the IRU has extensive experience in supporting countries and regions to design and implement corridor development models based on the Model Highway Initiatives (MHI), and that international development partners are becoming increasingly aware of the value of the regional approach to transport infrastructure development. This is apparent in the progress being made by China in promoting the Silk Road, or the ASEAN regional infrastructure funds, for example.

Mr. Runov concluded his intervention by saying that the atmosphere for the full implementation of the VPoA has never been more favourable, and that everyone should continue efforts to





Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which also emphasizes industrialization. Thus, he pointed out to the meeting, that the convergence is not only in terms of priority 2 (on infrastructure), but also in terms of priority 5, which is about structural economic transformation. He said that he emphasized this convergence because it provides a good basis for Organizations like the UNIDO to deliver on LLDC priorities in the forthcoming years.

Mr. Bredel elaborated how UNIDO is concretely contributing to



COMESA trade and transport facilitation instruments along COMESA corridors has positively contributed to corridor efficiency, improved utilization of resources and reduction in trade transaction costs. He listed some of these instruments, including Regional Customs Transit Guarantee, Yellow Card (regional third party insurance), COMESA Customs Doc



tool that will be used by UN Country teams to support the domestication, mainstreaming of Agenda 2030 and associated frameworks like the VPoA. She stated that UNDP, with its partners, will ensure that the VPoA is mainstreamed in policy and programme documents of LLDCs. She added that UNDP has held global discussions in order to roll out the MAPS within the UN system, with two meetings held so far in Korea (November) and New York (November). She informed the meeting that UNDP will be rolling out the MAPS Strategy while awaiting full completion to programme countries and regions, starting February 2016, and targeting to roll out to at least 20 countries that will be developing their national strategies in 2016/17, the majority of which are LLDCs.

Ms. Kamwendo concluded her intervention by saying that beyond the mainstreaming work, UNDP will continue to provide country programme support laying emphasis on Goals 1, 10 and 16 of the Agenda 2030, which are priority areas in UNDPs Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017).

The representative of **UNECLAC, Mr. Ricardo Sánchez** noted that the ECLAC ongoing work of the trends in economic infrastructure investments in Latin America was an important input for understanding the past, current and future policies of LLDCs and transit countries in the region. He also informed the meeting participants about several requests of technical assistance received by ECLAC, including the request from both Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chile to carry out analytical studies aimed at improving the connection between Arica/Chile and Bolivia (their main bilateral corridor), the request from the Bolivian Foreign Ministry to help in assessing the economic implications of its landlocked status and, finally, the new initiative on addressing the linkages between the infrastructure and logistics issues and the exploitation of natural resources.

Mr. Sánchez also invoked the importance of the general context of Agenda 2030 for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, as they are clear linkages between the two instruments, going beyond the most obvious connections in Goals 7 (energy), 9 (infrastructure) and 10 (reducing inequality). Another important dimension was the linkage between VPoA and the Addis Ababa Action Programme, which tackled many issues of direct relevance to VPoA, including the financing dimension for many of the actions expected from LLDCs and transit countries. To maximize on the possible synergies between VPoA and these global development programme, ECLAC will be preparing a conceptual note where the linkages between VPoA, Agenda 2030, AAAA and other relevant initiatives will be explored in details.

Finally, Mr. Sánchez mentioned the SE4ALL initiative and, in particular, the SE4ALL initiative important for reaching the VPoA goals. In a way of conclusion, he emphasised the role of the UNASUR, as the key political institution for advancing the goals of integration of physical infrastructure in South America.

The representative of the **UNWTO, Mr. Kazi A. Rahman** indicated that his organisation is working on a visa facilitation programme which is in line with the implementation of the VPoA. He also noted that UNWTO is working on 2 targets of the SDGs target 8.9 and 12b that are related to the implementation of the VPoA.



## **Annex I: List of Participants**

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## Annex II: Agenda

Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting  
On the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

**10 December 2015**

**UNHQ, New York**

### *Agenda*

<b>10:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>Opening session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opening statement by Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)</li></ul>
<b>10:15 – 13:00</b>	<b>Update on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action; Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Assessment of the linkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Vienna Programme of Action and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the need for enhanced partnerships to support the LLDCs - Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service, UN-OHRLLS</li><li>- Presentation on the Roadmap; Mainstreaming; and Indicators for following up the VPoA by Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN-OHRLLS</li><li>- Presentations by participating organisations on their efforts to implement and mainstream the VPoA, Addis Ababa Agenda for Action and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</li><li>- Discussion and proposals for improved collaboration and follow-up.</li><li>- Way forward and conclusion</li><li>- END</li></ul>