



The Fourth Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA) was held in Geneva on 8 February 2017. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). The IACG provided a platform for the participating organizations to update each other on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA), as well as consult on ways of fostering collaboration in forthcoming activities related to implementation of the VPoA.

The meeting was chaired by UN-OHRLS and opened by Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The meeting was attended by participants from 22 different institutions as shown in the participant list in annex 1. The meeting followed the agenda presented in annex 2.

welcomed all participants to the meeting and expressed appreciations to all the organizations for their contributions to the implementation of the VPoA. He recapitulated on the nature and content of the VPoA and highlighted that OHRLS has been consistently highlighting the importance of ensuring coherence in the implementation and follow-up to the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other development agendas.

He noted that at the regional and global levels, a number of the UN Regional Commissions as well as a number of UN departments and agencies have already taken formal steps to mainstream the VPoA. But he reiterated that solutions need to start at the national level. He informed the meeting that a number of countries have expressed their commitment to implement the VPoA and to mainstream it into their next national development plans, in a coherent way with other global agendas. He noted the need to support the LLDCs in this regard and reduce the monitoring and reporting burden by enhancing coherence.

He expressed appreciation that a number of recent international platforms addressed development issues that are relevant to the LLDCs, including the UNCTAD XIV, the First UN Conference on Sustainable Transport.

He gave brief overview of the important recent meetings organized by UN-OHRLS and the developments at the intergovernmental level, including the adoption of the annual resolution on the

Strategies, Enhancing regional cooperation, Financing sustainable energy transition in LLDCs and Building Innovative Partnerships.

In order to raise awareness of the importance of transport and infrastructure for the LLDCs, OHRLLS organized two side events at the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Ashgabat in November 2016 on Financing Sustainable Transport Infrastructure for Enhanced Connectivity of LLDCs and on Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development in LLDCs. OHRLLS also participated in the Third session of the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport in Moscow in December 2016 and provided inputs there. This January, OHRLLS and the LLDC Bureau held consultations with the World Bank to facilitate a continuous dialogue on the special needs of the LLDCs and World Bank support to the LLDCs.

The representative of _____, stressed that ECE is contributing to mainstreaming of the VPoA at different levels. She informed the meeting that the resolution for the 70th anniversary session of UNECE's Inland Transport Committee, which was expected to be adopted on 21 February, includes a reference to the implementation of the VPoA. ECE is undertaking a number of capacity building activities, events, policy dialogue to facilitate capacity of countries to improve border crossings, contributing to the operationalization of the VPoA. ECE offers the regulatory framework for transport, as well as a number of guidelines for border crossing facilitation and also organized several side events during the First UN Conference on Sustainable Transport on border crossing facilitation. In terms of connectivity, the Euro-Asia transport linkages project, which is coming to end of third phase, has provided a lot of concrete results on how to address bottlenecks in transport. Ms. Molnar also mentioned a project on development of advanced GIS system, which will be replicated in cooperation with Islamic Development Bank in their African members.

ECE has been undertaking efforts to promote accession to UN transport conventions, in particular the TIR and Harmonization Conventions, including through cooperation with OHRLLS in this regard, but there are still around 24% of the UN members who have not joined any of the UN transport conventions. Ms. Molnar noted the recent accession of China to the TIR Convention which will facilitate access to wider markets for many LLDCs and said that next focus should be on India and a number of LAC and African countries in order to unlock the LLDCs. She also stressed that new conventions are needed to be developed. ECE has been developing the unified railway law which is close to completion. The importance of monitoring pro

In terms of technical assistance, UNCTAD has recently offered support to a number of countries, including to one LLDC, Uganda through project on building productive capacities to upgrade and diversify their fish exports. Uganda's success in gaining access to the EU market provides a promising

WCO recently undertook the exercise to transform the transit handbook into transit guidelines, which will be launched during the global transit conference in Brussels on 10-11 July 2017. He informed that invitations will be sent out soon. The WCO secretariat organized 3 regional workshops to develop these guidelines, in Abidjan, Lusaka and La Paz, where customs administration shared their national experiences on transit and many development partners and regional and international organizations provided their inputs. The nex-e53(o-ie)9os9(d)-7(ev)4(e(s)-67(ow)19n)3(s)-34(w)8illencwnny67(n)-7(e)wertners

telecommunications, including a project to set up an early warning system in Zambia, and for cybersecurity and human capacity building in Rwanda. Another example of ITU's focused support to LLDCs is ITU's work to help the transition of Bolivia and Paraguay from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Ms. Gray also noted that ITU has mandate to track progress that developing countries, including LLDCs, are making towards becoming information societies and will publish information society index. The 2016 edition of the global ICT development index revealed that 3 of the 10 most dynamic countries were LLDCs – Rwanda, Bolivia and Bhutan.

The representative of [redacted], [redacted], highlighted that ITC is committed to implement 70% of its resources in LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS, but in 2016 this share amounted to more than 80%. ITC's interventions are focused on soft infrastructure related to trade and investment with a strong emphasis on women's economic empowerment. In LLDCs, ITC work is targeting sectors with high female participation such as textiles in Burkina Faso and Nepal, horticulture in Lesotho and tourism in Laos. Another highlight of ITC's work in the LLDCs is the program on non-tariff measures business surveys which have been conducted in Burkina, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda as well as in Kazakhstan and Paraguay. The findings of these surveys can help to better understand the obstacles to trade faced by the private sector in the LLDCs.

ITC works closely with other partners, such as UNCTAD and ECE on trade facilitation. ITC has also prepared a number of publications, ranging from a step-by-step guide for governments to set up National Trade Facilitation Committees, to analysis explaining the benefits of the Trade Facilitation Agreement from the business perspective and spelling out how to ensure SMEs in LLDCs can realize these gains.

The representative of [redacted], [redacted], informed the meeting that the 12 Asian LLDCs in the region continued to make progress in implementing the VPoA, but an economic transformation from a centrally planned economy to free market economy in 9 of them, as well as continuing uncertainty in global trade and investment fl

Belt and Road Initiative. Regional workshop was held in May, as well as national workshops were held in Mongolia and Lao PDR, with second regional workshop to be held in Bangkok.

The representative of _____, highlighted UNFCCC activities towards implementation of the VPoA, that stem from the work on LDCs, given that 17 of them are also LLDCs. UNFCCC is assisting in building the capacity of LDCs to implement the convention, its Kyoto protocol and the Paris Agreement, which includes amongst other things, the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). The NAPAs were established to support the LDCs to address the challenge of climate change given their particular vulnerability. They enable the LDCs to identify and implement priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change. The LDC Expert Group provides LDCs with technical guidance

CFC. Among these are public-private impact investment funds and development impact bonds as new instruments with great potential value in achieving sustainable development. Mr. Kuleshov noted that the use of these more complicated instruments requires involvement of various partners and called on the participating agencies for collaboration. He noted that all LLDC projects came from Africa and that some LLDCs, particularly those in Central Asia are facing a particular challenge in becoming Members of the CFC. However, the main barrier to becoming member of CFC is lack of information and understanding of the facilities of the CFC.

The representative of the , stressed that there are strong synergies and linkages of the EIF with the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda. The EIF continues to work on key areas in the implementation of the VPoA, and the new phase from 2016-2022 will include focus on even more key areas for LLDCs, including a stronger focus on regional trade, technology and building inclusive trade.

The EIF is working with UNCTAD in linking the analysis in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies in Ethiopia and Djibouti with a joint validation and working session focusing on trade facilitation and linkages between the two countries. Similar initiative was undertaken with the World Bank for the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies for Malawi and Zambia.

The EIF also continues its major focus on productive capacity building and value addition, including

and Lao PDR also benefited from UNIDO's technical cooperation. In some cases, UNIDO implements stand-alone projects, such as in Malawi to enhance the performance of the national bureau of standards or in Mali to support resilience capacity of youth and women. In addition, UNIDO produces various publications focused on LDCs and LLDCs, including a report to G20 on how to strengthen industrialization in Africa and LDCs

The representative of _____ stressed that health is the outcome as well as contributor to development. He noted that WHO is making direct contribution to LLDCs through its country officers and by working directly with Government, civil society, the UN and other partners. WHO is currently undergoing some structural changes, focused on strengthening of country offices. The WHO in Geneva has recently started collecting data on LLDCs, cognizant of the need to have a central database on health indicators,

solutions and initiatives presented and 90 Southern-grown development solutions, technologies and initiatives exhibited.

In addition, against the backdrop of the One Belt One Road initiative, UNOSSC and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE), in collaboration with other UN entities, established the Maritime and Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance: Unlocking Trade, Investment, Sustainable Development at the Local Level in 2015. This initiative is connecting cities along the

consensus building on key environmental issues. On priority 6, UNEP focuses on technology support and environmental capacity building. UNEP is also working with UN Country Teams to mainstream environmental sustainability in One UN Programmes and UNDAFs so that UNCTs become better able to assist countries in addressing their environmental challenges.

Ms. Daltrop also informed that UNEP Executive Director will be attending the Expo 2017 in Astana, where UNEP will also have a booth with energy and climate stories and celebrate the UN Environment Day at the EXPO.

submitted a written input to the meeting, focusing on the 2017 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The HLPF is UN's central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The GA resolution on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at global level (A/RES/70/299) outlined the themes of HLPF over the next three years as well as the sets of SDGs to be reviewed in-depth together with the annual review of means of implementation (incl. Goal 17). The 2017 HLPF will be held from 10 to 19 July 2017, on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", focusing on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14.

GA Resolution A/RES/67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of HLPF decided that the meetings of HLPF "shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and African countries, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments " (para11). In addition to having a session dedicated to countries in special situations, LLDCs are also showing increasing interest in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at HLPF. In 2016, there was only one LLDC (Uganda) participating in the VNRs out of the 22 participants. In 2017, there will be Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Ethiopia, Nepal, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe. It will be an opportunity for other LLDCs too, to raise questions at their VNR presentations and learn from the experiences they share, particularly on how they address LLDC-specific challenges.

A representative of highlighted some of the key upcoming events that OHRLLS will be working on. The High-Level Euro-Asia Regional Meeting on Improving Cooperation between LLDCs and Transit Countries on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will be held from 7-9 March 2017, in Hanoi, Vietnam. It is co-organized with and hosted by Government of Vietnam, with funding support from the IRU and WCO. The Meeting is being organized as part of the follow-up and implementation of the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the WTO TFA. It will be attended by Ministers and senior government officials from LLDCs, transit countries, development partners, United Nations organizations and relevant international, regional and national organizations, private sector and NGOs. The meeting will provide a platform to share ideas, lessons learnt, good practices, future policies, and initiatives and offer recommendations on how to improve transit issues for increased connectivity and trade potential of both the LLDCs and the transit countries and achievement of the SDGs.

OHRLLS is also planning to organize an LLDC side event during HLPF in July 2017 in New York, focused of aspects of SDG 9, as well as an event focused on the private sector as a follow-up to the private sector

track of the Second UN conference. An annual ministerial meeting of the LLDC during the high level segment of the General Assembly will be held in September.

The representative of _____ informed that UNFCCC and the LDC expert group are organizing 5th NAP Expo on 11-13 April to advance formulation of NAPs. The expert group will also hold five regional workshops on formulation and implementation of NAPS this year. The aim is to enhance the capacity of LDCs and LLDCs to develop national adaptation solutions, explore

In closing, _____ noted that there are many dedicated programmes for LLDCs and encouraged for those to be scaled up

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

8 February 2017
Room S3, World Trade Organization, Geneva
Agenda

	<p>Opening 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)</p>
	<p>Presentation by UN-OHRLLS on the progress in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and activities in second half of 2016</p> <p>Presentations by participating organisations on their efforts to mainstream and implement the VPoA – ECE, ESCAP, IRU, ITC, UNCTAD, UNFCCC, UNOSSC, UN WTO, UNDP, UNIDO, WCO, WTO, World Bank, etc. (ECLAC, UN DESA – written inputs)</p> <p>Discussion and proposals for improved follow-up and implementation</p>
	<p>Presentation of upcoming events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ High-Level Euro-Asia Regional Meeting on Improving Cooperation between LLDCs and Transit Countries on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 7-9 March 2017, Hanoi, Vietnam○ LLDC side event during HLPF, July 2017, New York○ LLDC private sector event <p>Presentations by participating organizations on their planned activities and events for 2017</p> <p>Discussion and proposals for collaboration on planned activities</p>