



United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

(UN-OHRLLS)

**Report of the Third Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting
on the Preparatory Process for the Comprehensive 10-Year
Review Conference on the Almaty Programme of Action**

United Nations, New York

10 June 2013

A. Introduction

This is a report of the Third Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) Meeting on the Preparatory Process for the Comprehensive 10-Year Review Conference on the Almaty Programme of Action that was held in New York on the 10th of June 2013. 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-OHRLLS). The objective of the IACG was to provide a forum for consultation and information-sharing among United Nations system and other international organizations on the preparations for the Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA). The meeting discussed preparations for the 2014 comprehensive ten-year review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action and gathered commitments and updates from inter-agency partners regarding the organization of pre-conference events and regional review meetings, publications and concrete deliverables for the Conference, as well as contributions to the private sector track of the Conference.

The meeting was convened by UN-OHRLLS, and opened by Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Secretary-General of the Second UN Conference on LLDCs, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Ambassador Saleumxay Kommasith, the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations and the Global Chair of the LLDC

importance of the ten-year review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action that will take place in 2014, at a time when the international community is consulting on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. The timing for the Conference thus increases its profile and presents an opportunity to link to it to the post-2015 process.

the past decade, especially in the establishment of efficient transit transport systems, there

C. Consultations on the substantive and organizational preparations for the Comprehensive Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action

In this session, Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director of UN-OHRLLS provided an overview of the status of the preparatory process, Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief in UN-OHRLLS, provided an update on the substantive preparations and pre-conference events by UN-OHRLLS, followed by interventions by the UN Regional Commissions and other participating organizations regarding the preparations of regional review meetings and other pre-conference events.

Current status of the preparations for the Conference by UN-OHRLLS

In her presentation, **Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox** briefed the meeting on the aims of the 3-day comprehensive review Conference that will take place in 2014:

- i) Undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action
- ii) Identify effective international, regional, sub regional and national policies in the area of international trade and transit transport cooperation and review the current situation of transit transport systems in the light of new and challenges and opportunities
- iii) Reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special development needs of and the challenges faced by the LLDCs
- iv) Mobilize international support and action by and in favor of the LLDCs and formulate and adopt a renewed development framework for the next decade

The Director noted that the preparatory work for the Conference is being undertaken along three main tracks, namely: the intergovernmental track; the Inter-Agency track; and the Private Sector track. As part of the inter-governmental track, regarding national reviews on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, she informed that

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LLDCs. Among them, were the importance of diversification of economies and exports, the need to build up the productive capacities, addressing vulnerability of LLDCs, need for intensification of regional integration, the importance of the private sector development and the need to look at trade and transport issues in a more holistic way. Mr. Erdenebileg informed the meeting that a summary report has been shared and is also available on UN-OHRLLS website.

Next, Mr. Erdenebileg indicated that UN-OHRLLS and the World Bank were organizing an event on Transport Development and Trade Facilitation on 13 June 2013 in Washington D.C. The event would review the progress that has been made in improving transport infrastructure and trade facilitation towards assisting LLDCs to easily access international markets; how efficiently they use the existing trade facilitation facilities; and suggest priorities on transport development and trade facilitation for a new development agenda for LLDCs.

He informed that an event on Enhancing International support Measures for LLDCs was

being organized jointly by UN-OHRLLS and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 13 June 2013 in Washington D.C. The event would review the progress that has been made in improving transport infrastructure and trade facilitation towards assisting LLDCs to easily access international markets; how efficiently they use the existing trade facilitation facilities; and suggest priorities on transport development and trade facilitation for a new development agenda for LLDCs.

to think of more innovative ways to fund these plans. She informed the meeting that PPPs are a good way to bridge the gap, but only 2-3 per cent of global investment is in PPPs.

Ms. Molnar also informed the meeting that as a foll

Acharya highlighted the particular importance of se

Mr. Kuleshov informed on a new initiative launched by Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa called "Inform a farmer" which targets mobilization of private financing enhancing the transparency of information on maize availability and trade in Malawi and Zambia. He noted that within a month of its launch the initiative is reaching over 1300 farmers and importantly, it is growing at minimal cost, with essentially zero donor financing, building private sector support based on earlier development initiatives.

He then indicated that the CFC and UNCTAD are continuing their collaboration to reinvigorate the momentum of the commodity sector as positive force for development in landlocked countries. In the context of preparations for the Review, the CFC looks for practical ideas which could work effectively in landlocked Commodity Dependent Developing Countries (CDDCs). Mr. Andrey Kuleshov expressed hope for closer collaboration with UN-OHRLLS in the preparations towards the Review Conference.

A representative of **UNCCD** noted that UNCCD has contributed to a study on the "Implications of climate change, desertification and land degradation for LLDCs" which is in the final stage of completion. UNCCD has provided a range of inputs on the impact of land degradation and desertification on LLDCs, where most of the world's poor, hungry and malnourished reside and who are heavily dependent on a fragile natural base – i.e. land -for their development. UNCCD has suggested that since LLDCs are primarily producers of agricultural products and are among the worst affected by land degradation and desertification, it is now crucial for them that we move to a land degradation neutral world and that Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought issues be mainstreamed in the new Programme of Action.

In collaboration with UNFCCC and UN-OHRLLS, UNCCD is working towards a preconference event, on the margins of the forthcoming UNCCD COP 11 to be held in Namibia from 16-27 September 2013. Preparations for this side event are at an advanced stage of planning. The side event will profile the conclusions and recommendation of the study and the expectation is that taking advantage of the presence of Ministers at COP 11, there can be a substantive discussion on the implications of climate change, desertification and land degradation for LLDCs and that concrete recommendations and suggestions can emanate which will contribute to further consideration of these issues at the ten-year Review Conference.

Ms. Olga Frolova, the representative of **International Road Transport Union (IRU)**, informed the meeting that IRU has just established a permanent delegation to the United Nations in New York, headed by IRU Under Secretary General Mr. Rounov. She briefed the meeting that IRU will organize a high level Con

The representative of **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**, Ms. Kadiatou Sall-Beye informed the meeting that ITU has been involved in the implementation of the

experiences in the pilot phase will inform a decision to adapt, scale-up and replicate successful activities across the rest of the LLDCs. He informed the meeting that a concept note is being finalized and that the target to launch the South-South Facility is the last week of October of this year during the Global South-South Development Expo

proposals of the private sector will contribute to the formulation of innovative strategies and policy recommendations that will form the new development framework.

He briefed the meeting that the private sector will be engaged to participate at all levels

Annex I: List of Participants

Asian Development Bank

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Common Fund for Commodity (CFC)

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Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Economic Affairs Officer, UN-OHRLLS, United Nations Secretariat,
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. CFC on High Level Event on Commodities, organized with UNCTAD7. UNCCD on Implications of Climate Change, Desertification and Land Degradation on LLDCs, organized with UNFCCC and OHRLLS8. IRU on High-level Conference on Road Transport9. ITU on Information and Communication Infrastructure and Technology Development for the LLDCs, organized with OHRLLS <p>Contributions and comments by other participating organizations</p>
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