

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

Report of the Secretary General

**Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing
Countries for the Decade 2014- 2024**

Introduction

The report is being prepared in response to the request by the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/217 to the Secretary General to submit at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. The report will provide comprehensive information, analysis and statistical data on recent progress and challenges in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and of the Political Declaration of the High Level Midterm Review. The report will also review the performance of the LLDCs on the Sustainable Development Goals and recent socioeconomic development and the progress made in implementing the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA. Furthermore, it will highlight COVID-19 recovery efforts in LLDCs and identify areas that require further action and support. The report will provide important input to the intergovernmental processes including of the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

The report will be prepared based on information provided by entities in the United Nations system and other international organisations. The report will also be based on recent studies and analysis of current data and proceedings of recent meetings. The report will also provide a comprehensive statistical annex.

The Draft Outline of the report

I. Introduction

This section will briefly introduce the report, highlighting the legislative mandate for the report and its scope.

II. An overview of recent socioeconomic development in LLDCs including impact of COVID-19 pandemic

This section will analyse recent developments in the social and economic situation of the LLDCs including progress made by LLDCs on the SDGs and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on these countries. The analysis will integrate gender and human rights.

III. Status of implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action

This section will assess the progress made in the implementation of the VPoA highlighting the major progress and challenges experienced including due to COVID-19. It will be prepared using inputs submitted by Member States, UN system organizations and other relevant international organizations and analysis of available relevant statistical data for each priority area. The specific subsections will be namely:

- Fundamental Transit Policy issues**
- Infrastructure Development and Maintenance**
- International Trade and Trade Facilitation**

Means of implementation

UNEP supported the 7th Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 7) as a prerequisite to the high level political forum (HLPF) 2021 and contributed to the high level political forum itself. UNEP contributed to the background paper on SDG 12 for the ARFSD 7 which was convened virtually from 1 to 4 March 2021. The paper which was prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with contributions from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), focuses on Sustainable Development Goal 12 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”.

UNEP in partnership with UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), also hosted a virtual event at the ARFSD 7 to discuss a common approach to building back better through a greener pathway towards COVID 19 recovery. The side event titled ‘Building Back Better: A Greener Pathway to COVID Recovery in Africa’, provided a platform to discuss what a common approach to building back better through a greener pathway to COVID 19 recovery should look like and offered an opportunity for countries to share lessons on policies and strategic approaches towards COVID 19 recovery in order to enhance the VRA implementation.

UNEP in collaboration with DCO Africa supported the capacity building of national

V. Conclusions and recommendations

This section will provide key recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action based on the analysis provided in the report

Statistical Annex

The statistical annex will provide, in tabular form, referenced, national-level data on selected VPOA indicators discussed in the report