High-level Thematic Round Table 4: Enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and addressing vulnerability to climate change and disasters in landlocked developing countries
Thursday, 12 December 2024, 10 am - 1 pm

Introduction

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are among the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impacts of climate change. They are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, extreme weather events, and the socio-economic consequences of climate change.

Extreme vulnerability of LLDCs to climate change

According to data reported in the Sendai Framework Monitor, the mortality rate between 2013 and 2022 was 2.12 in LLDCs, significantly higher than the global average of 1.15. The economic impacts of disasters are significant with LLDCs reported 4.14 per cent of economic losses, while having only 1.05 per cent of the GDP of reporting countries. Infrastructure vulnerability is also a major concern, with an average of 36,532 critical infrastructure units and facilities destroyed or damaged by disasters annually in LLDCs during 2015 2022. Limited early warning systems pose a significant risk to LLDCs, with only 59 per cent among LLDCs have reported having multi-hazard early warning systems.

LLDCs are experiencing more frequent and severe climate-related hazards, including droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures. Approximately 54 per cent of land in LLDCs is classified as dryland, making them prone to desertification, land degradation, as well as heat stress. Water scarcity is a pressing issue, with the per capita availability of renewable internal freshwater resources in the LLDCs was only 60 per cent of the world average in 2020. Water resources also face multiple pressures and are highly sensitive to climate change impacts such as a disruption in rainfall patterns and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Mountainous regions are subject to melting glaciers, glacial lake outburst floods, landslides, and flash floods, while traditional water resources are under threat.

The economies of LLDCs are often reliant upon climate-sensitive sectors making them particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks and long-term climate change. Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and mining

their domestic production and their export pathways - places LLDCs at a significant disadvantage in the face of escalating climate change, threatening their economic stability and development prospects.

Climate Finance for LLDCs

LLDCs have made significant strides in securing climate finance from various global funds. As of October 2023, LLDCs had received USD7.9 billion for climate change activities, amounting to 15 per cent of totals, from the GEF Trust Fund, the LDC Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund. This represented 9 per cent of total climate finance for mitigation disbursed to developing countries through the Global Environment Facility, and 31 per cent of total climate finance for adaptation. Additionally, as at 5 March 2024, LLDCs had received USD 3.1 billion from the GCF, amounting to 23 per cent of total GCF funding.

LLDCs face persistent challenges in accessing finance, often relying on international assistance due to limited direct access to international public finance. Despite some progress in streamlining approval processes, LLDCs face constraints in preparing adaptation plans and projects for established funds, hindered by technical capacity constraints and stringent access conditions. Enhanced support is crucial to assist LLDCs in preparing bankable projects.

Unlocking the Potential: Critical Minerals and Renewable Energy

Many LLDCs possesses vast reserves of metals and minerals, including the critical minerals, essential for clean energy transitions, such as lithium, nickel, cobalt, copper, and rare earth elements. Several LLDCs also have significant untapped renewable energy resources, offering promising pathways for sustainable development and energy security. These have positioned LLDCs as potential key players in the global shift towards sustainable energy.

To fully capitalize on these natural endowments, LLDCs require targeted support to develop and implement strategies for domestic value addition of their critical minerals. This approach is crucial for driving structural transformation, boG[( )]TJETQ0.0d repport G[s)-6(upport)720( )-20(c reW*nB

building climate-resilient infrastructure, halting biodiversity loss, and restoring degraded

3. What innovative capacity building measures are needed to ensure that LLDCs are able to implement adaptation measures effectively once finance has been secured?
4. How can the LLDCs fully benefit from the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage and the Loss and Damage Fund?

Programme

Co-chairs (interventions - 4 minutes each)

1. Co-Chair 1
2. Co-Chair 2

Keynote (interventions - 12 mins)

3. Keynote presenter

Panel (interventions - 7 minutes each)

4. Member State 1
5. Member State 2
6. UN system 1
7. UN system 2
8. Stakeholder

Discussion