



REVIEW OF UNITED SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION (VPoA)

Inspector Jean Wesley Cazeau



Background

To address the special development needs and challenges faced by the 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) - characterized by their lack of access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from international markets - the General Assembly adopted the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) in 2014. The VPoA is a holistic development framework that seeks to galvanize coherent support and enhance the rate of sustainable and inclusive growth of LLDCs. The six priorities of the VPoA are: fundamental transit policy issues (priority 1); infrastructure development and maintenance (priority 2); international trade and trade facilitation (priority 3); regional integration and cooperation (priority 4); structural economic transformation (priority 5); and means of implementation (priority 6).



Objectives

The JIU review purports to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and comparative value of United Nations (UN) system support to implement the VPoA with a view to enhancing the capacity of LLDCs to address the needs and challenges that arise from being landlocked. It focuses on how UN system entities have supported the VPoA and makes suggestions for improvement.

The three objectives of the review are to:

1. Assess the scope of support of UN system entities for LLDCs in relation to the VPoA in terms of capacity and areas that they are best placed to support in relation to their mandates.

2. Identify and assess the measures taken to address the challenges and constraints faced by UN system entities in providing support to LLDCs in relation to the VPoA and develop lessons learned or good practices to enhance success in its implementation.

3. Examine the individual viewpoints of LLDCs concerning the relevance of the VPoA, the adequacy of UN system support and the nature of coordination and collaboration between national Governments and UN system entities in its implementation.



Approach & Methodology

Given that the VPoA had just passed its midway point when the review commenced, the approach of the review is a formative assessment of the challenges, opportunities, good practices and lessons learned vis-à-vis the work of UN system organizations, at the headquarters, regional and country levels, to support VPoA implementation during its first five years.

The review is based on an extensive data collection process, including questionnaire responses from and/or interviews with: (a) 21 JIU participating organizations; (b) UN country teams in 31 LLDCs; (c) 25 development partners; and (d) representatives from the Permanent Missions to UN in New York or Geneva from 26 LLDCs. It also incorporates survey responses from 42 personnel in resident coordinator offices in 29 LLDCs, as well as survey responses from 246 country team members in 32 LLDCs.



What the JIU found

1. Coverage, mainstream, linkages of VPoAs to entity's mandated work and initiatives undertaken

Coverage: UN system entities (at both the headquarters and country levels) cover all the priority areas of the VPoA, to varying degrees, and in ways that are complementary to their mandates and capacities. They do so with a focus on soft assistance, through measures that tap into their expertise in normative work, knowledge development, capacity development and convening power.

Mainstreaming the VPoA in organizational work is supported by 15 entities through directives from their governing bodies, either to explicitly support implementation of the VPoA or support LLDCs on certain related priorities. However, country offices received less guidance than headquarters on the VPoA. Additionally, the concerns of LLDCs are generally perceived to be not as well mainstreamed in organizational work as those of small island developing States and least developed countries.

Linkages: Most UN system entities (29) identified one or more priorities of the VPoA as being linked to their mandated work. In instances in which an entity's mandate is linked to the VPoA, there is a corresponding strategic framework or work programme that includes the priorities of the VPoA in most instances (84 per cent). However, these strategies and work programmes are typically not accompanied by action plans, strategies, targets and key performance indicators related to the priorities of the VPoA.

Initiatives: 17 UN system entities had carried out programmes, projects and activities to implement the priorities of the VPoA, which had benefited the majority of LLDCs. Such initiatives consist of a variety of interventions and contribute to all the SDGs and other global development agendas.

2. Success factors and support gaps in VPoA implementation

Success factors: An analysis of the initiatives related to the VPoA successfully supported by UN system entities leads to the conclusion that, in order to achieve successful outcomes, entities should further: holistic, transformative and demand-driven approaches; evidence-based decision-making; local engagement, ownership and empowerment; coordination and collaboration with multiple stakeholders; resource mobilization through engagement with the private sector; engagement with transit countries and regional partners; and monitoring and reporting. Conversely, entities should avoid fragmented, siloed and top-down approaches, micromanagement and competition for traditional funding.

Support gaps: In terms of gaps in system-wide support for the VPoA, the Inspector found such gaps to be broadly related to: limitations in data, technical and financial support; lack of a central coordinating entity for certain priorities of the VPoA; lack of advocacy and promotion; an inability to generate political will; and lack of collaboration on certain key initiatives.

3. Internal and external challenges in supporting VPoA implementation

Internal challenges: The key internal challenges (within the remit of control of an organization) that UN system entities face in effectively supporting implementation of the VPoA include the lack of dedicated financial and human resources to address the priorities of the VPoA, exacerbated by the limited prioritization of the LLDCs. They also include siloed approaches to the work of country team members and the lack of coherent support from their organizations' headquarters.

External challenges: The key external challenges (beyond the remit of an organization) that the UN system entities face include: missing elements in the VPoA to achieve sustainable development outcomes; lack of cohesion among LLDCs; (political, governance, capacity and coordination) constraints within LLDCs; and inadequate engagement of the private sector, donors and development partners, including limited leveraging of comparative advantages.

4. Other key challenges in supporting VPoA implementation

Engaging transit countries: While the constructive engagement of transit countries is key to successful implementation of the VPoA, the Inspector found such engagement to be limited due to: geopolitical tensions; power imbalances; differing priorities and lack of harmonized rules and standards between LLDCs and transit countries; and lack of cross-border initiatives, exacerbated by the inadequate presence of entities on the ground to push such initiatives forward.

Furthering coherence among development agendas: Addressing the priorities of the VPoA becomes easier when its linkages with other global and regional development agendas can be made evident through an objective, flexible and comprehensive conceptual mapping of all agendas to show congruency and divergences. Except for a mapping of the VPoA and the Sustainable Development Goals conducted by UN-OHRLLS, the Inspector found such a mapping to be missing for other development agendas, resulting in variations in the understanding and interpretation of the congruencies or discrepancies between the VPoA and other global development agendas.

Operationalizing the Road map for accelerated implementation of the VPoA in the remaining five years: The key challenges identified by the Inspector vis-à-vis the timely implementation of the road map include: inadequate resources to meet increasing demand for advisory services, technical assistance programmes, analytical work and policy services; reliance on the Governments of LLDCs to effectively mobilize partners; weaknesses in communicating information to the country level; and not using LLDCs as a unit of analysis in agency reporting.

Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: The key challenges identified by the Inspector concerning the impact of the pandemic on support for implementing the VoA include: the need to reposition and repurpose programme resources and activities to respond to the pandemic; significant underfunding of COVID-19 response and recovery plans; delays in the implementation of projects due to lockdowns; staff fatigue; border closures and disruptions to trade and supply chains; increases in unemployment, poverty, income disparities and gender-based violence; and rising indebtedness impeding infrastructure development and structural transformation.

5. Internal capacity of entities to support VPoA implementation

Internal coordination and cooperation on the VPoA: While none of the UN system entities (with the exception of UN-OHRLS) has a dedicated office focused exclusively on supporting implementation of the VPoA, 23 entities have an office – performing another primary function – that serves as the designated lead (or de facto focal point) in coordinating the entity's work on support for LLDCs and, by extension, the VPoA.

Awareness of the VPoA among staff at large: The Inspector found a significant shortfall in overall awareness and understanding of the VPoA among staff at large system-wide. Where awareness exists, it tends to be limited to personnel dealing directly or indirectly with providing support to LLDCs on priority areas of the VPoA.

Training and learning opportunities on the VPoA: While no entity has developed any dedicated training for their staff on the VPoA, most entities noted that they would welcome training that would help to sensitize staff directly or indirectly supporting specific priorities of the VPoA.

Monitoring of and reporting on VPoA implementation: No entity has a dedicated internal mechanism to monitor initiatives related to the VPoA nor a dedicated internal platform to report on it. Reports to governing bodies include the results achieved in the specific LLDCs in which an entity operates, but not on LLDCs as a group. The obstacles that entities face include: inadequate data from the national statistical offices of LLDCs; lack of a unified platform to measure system-wide achievements concerning the VPoA; non-identification of LLDCs and activities related to the VPoA as a separate category in programme management systems; and lack of demand from the Governments of LLDCs to incorporate indicators related to the VPoA into country programme documents and cooperation frameworks.

6. Performance and resourcing on UN-OHRLS on its mandated role in complementing the VPoA

Performance: Mixed views were expressed by stakeholders on the performance of UN-OHRLS concerning its four mandated work areas on the VPoA.

Its performance was deemed to be largely inadequate in mobilizing resources to implement the VPoA and in fostering coherence with follow-up to and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Views were more positive on its role in ensuring coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the VPoA and in advocating on behalf of LLDCs and raising awareness of the particular challenges that they face.

Resourcing: The Office's subprogramme on LLDCs has three full-time staff in the Professional category and an average annual budgetary allocation (regular and extrabudgetary) that has ranged between \$750,000 and \$1,250,000 since the adoption of the VPoA in 2014. Given the broad mandate of the Office provided by the General Assembly, the Inspector notes with concern the vast gaps between the expectations of partners and stakeholders in terms of what they expect from UN-OHRLS and what it can practically deliver through its sub-programme on LLDCs given the existing resources.

7. Coordination and cooperation on the VPoA

Platforms for intergovernmental coordination and cooperation on the VPoA: While existing intergovernmental platforms have allowed representatives of LLDCs to make progress towards achieving consensus, awareness, common understanding, political support and the sharing of lessons learned and best practices on the VPoA, they have also been beset by challenges regarding their structure, inclusivity, financing and support deficits, which include, among others: the absence of a stand-alone agenda item on the VPoA or LLDCs; an inability to produce country-specific guidance; inadequate presence and participation of representatives of transit countries; and ad hoc and non-strategic reports prepared by UN system entities.

Focal points on the VPoA in the national Governments of LLDCs: Representatives of 19 LLDCs noted having a designated ministry (or ministries) that performed the role of national government focal point on the VPoA. However, those focal points face considerable challenges in effectively engaging with UN system entities on the VPoA due to: lack of human and financial resources to attend relevant events; lack of appropriate engagement with country teams; lack of a monitoring and evaluation framework with clear designated responsibilities for reporting on VPoA indicators; and reporting delays and underreporting by relevant ministries on implementation of the VPoA. Consequently, the existence of these focal points is largely unknown to the UN system.

Coordination and cooperation among UN system entities - global level: As the main global platform for inter-agency coordination and cooperation on support for LLDCs to implement the VPoA, the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for LLDCs (IACG) is appreciated by its 55 member entities as a useful forum for information exchange. However, IACG members lamented that the platform provided little room for substantive discussions on the impacts, challenges and limitations of each agency's interventions. It also lacks focus and interactive brainstorming to identify areas for collaboration and in-depth coordination.

To further strengthen the platform, members highlighted the need to take measures to ensure that meetings were more solutions oriented, thematic and efficient; further participation, inclusion and information-sharing; and improve synergy and follow-up.

Coordination and cooperation among UN system entities - regional level: Heterogeneity in the trade and development needs of LLDCs, resulting in the need to develop tailor-made solutions for individual LLDCs, challenges the ability of regional commissions to cooperate with each other on the VPoA.

Coordination and cooperation among UN system entities - country level: Country-level cooperation on the VPoA occurs through joint programmes, country team meetings, thematic working groups and issue-based coalitions. While country teams in most (27) LLDCs have 20 or more members, indicating a healthy UN system presence, several members are entities without a physical presence, which struggle to engage due to a lack of systematic inclusion in relevant deliberations and the lack of a systematic invitation to engage in joint partnerships with resident agencies.

8. Support needed by country teams in LLDCs for the VOaP

Linkages between the VPoA and national development needs: Representatives of 26 LLDCs highlighted structural economic transformation (priority 5), transport infrastructure (priority 2 (b)), energy and information and communications technology infrastructure (priority 2 (a)) and trade facilitation (priority 3 (b)) as being the most significant priorities for their national development needs. They also highlighted the need for urgent support for the development of transport corridors, infrastructure and transport projects, frameworks for information and communications technology development, trade policies and export strategies; the leveraging of regional initiatives; product diversification, adding value and industrialization; strengthening national statistical capacities; engagement of the private sector; and the enhancement of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Linkages between the VPoA and work of country teams and opportunities emanating from reforms:

While most country teams in LLDCs consider the VPoA to be relevant to their work, none has developed any actions plans or strategies to implement it. Most acknowledged that the VPoA was not explicitly considered, either in the drafting of common country analysis or in the development of the country cooperation framework. They attributed this to a lack of sufficient knowledge and awareness of the VPoA and of explicit directives from the Governments of LLDCs to consider it in the development of the country cooperation framework. Reform of the UN development system has given resident coordinators an opportunity to make full use of their strengthened capacity and convening power to implement country-level measures to strengthen implementation of the VPoA.

Cooperation between national Governments and country teams on the VPoA: In instances in which cooperation was assessed as positive and constructive, the following, among others, were identified as contributing factors: a proactive Government (in terms of ownership, leadership, demand, accessibility and receptiveness), joint consultation, joint work and the sharing of costs and resources. In situations in which cooperation was deemed to be challenging, contributing factors included multidimensional crises limiting the ability of Governments to focus on medium- and long-term objectives and the shortcomings of national counterparts vis-à-vis attitudes, planning and organization, capacity, access and responsiveness.

Support needed by country teams from headquarters and the regional level: While country team members appreciated the role of the Development Coordination Office in establishing a network of resident coordinator offices in LLDCs and in providing technical guidance to carry out common country analysis and prepare country cooperation frameworks, they highlighted the need for support from the headquarters of their organizations and from regional offices, in the realms of planning and directives, substantive and analytical support, communication and information-sharing and resource mobilization and partnerships.

9. Furthering the engagement of external development partners in implementing the VPoA

Challenges to coordination and cooperation: While UN system entities and development partners recognized and welcomed each other's comparative advantages and areas of expertise on the VPoA, the Inspector identified in the review considerable challenges to cooperation emanating from: unstructured and inadequate engagement; information-sharing challenges; perceived overreach; divergences in priorities, principles, approaches and financial reporting structures; and a diminishing pool of development partners in certain LLDCs. To address these challenges, both sides highlighted the need to take measures to acknowledge and utilize the respective areas of strength, formalize means of cooperation, enhance communication and information-sharing and further joint studies, workshops, technical assistance, advocacy and funding.





What the JIU recommends

The JIU makes 9 formal recommendations.

Legislative bodies of the United Nations system organizations are called on to:

1 Issue directives, if they have not already done so, by the end of 2022, for their organizations to mainstream the priorities of the programme of action for LLDCs that are pertinent to their mandated work and request that their organizations report periodically on its implementation.

Executive heads of the United Nations system organizations are called on to:

2 Designate, if they have not already done so, by the end of 2022, an organizational focal point on LLDCs with clear terms of reference, developed with guidance from UN-OHRLLS, that define the focal point's role and responsibilities in supporting implementation of the programme of action for LLDCs.

3 Develop, by the end of 2022, a clear results framework for support for LLDCs, including linkages among the outcomes to be achieved, the main outputs strategy and core activities.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is called on to:

4 Task UN-OHRLLS to engage with relevant UN system organizations to develop, by the end of 2022, a well-defined and comprehensive strategy and implementation plan for the design, conduct, monitoring and evaluation of training on mainstreaming the programme of action for LLDCs at the national level in such countries.

5 Task the UN Sustainable Development Group, supported by the Development Coordination Office, to provide, by the end of 2022, guidance on a consistent basis to country teams in LLDCs on factoring in the programme of action for LLDCs in carrying out common country analyses and in developing cooperation frameworks.

6 Task the system-wide evaluation office of the UN Sustainable Development Group to conduct, by the end of 2023, a system-wide evaluation of the contribution by the UN system to the development results of the VPoA and ensure that the findings feed into the preparation of the successor programme of action for LLDCs.

7 Task UN-OHRLLS to develop, by the end of 2022, a well-defined integrated results framework, budget and programme plan for its subprogramme on LLDCs, accompanied by information on the conditions for success, including partnerships for collective impact, a risk management plan and a monitoring and evaluation plan.

8 Task UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the Development Coordination Office, to work with the resident coordinator offices in LLDCs and transit developing countries in order to invite national Governments to designate focal points on the programme of action for LLDCs with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

9 Task UN-OHRLLS, as the Chair of IACG, to review the modalities of the Group so as, by the end of 2022, to ensure for all meetings provisions, developed in collaboration with the Development Coordination Office, for the engagement of resident coordinators and invitations, when deemed appropriate, to LLDCs and transit developing countries to participate in interactive discussions on thematic issues.

The Inspector also makes a series of informal recommendations that can be encompassed under 14 key areas that are addressed to:

- (a) the Governments of LLDCs and their Permanent Missions to the UN in New York and Geneva;
- (b) legislative organs and governing bodies of the UN system organizations;
- (c) executive heads of the UN system organizations;
- (d) key actors in the UN system entities (regional commissions, the Development Coordination Office, UN-OHRLLS, country teams in LLDCs and IACG); and
- (e) development partners.

Complementary Paper

Additional findings from the desk review and data collection are outlined in the complementary paper to the report which can be found on the JIU website. The complementary paper is intended to serve as guidance for technical professionals engaged in providing support to implement the priorities of the VPoA.



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JIU Complementary Paper (JIU/REP/2021/2)

This paper contains documents and tables based on background data and information which the Inspectors collected during the JIU “Review of United Nations system support to Landlocked Developing Countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action” (JIU/REP/2021/2).

The Complementary Paper was subject to factual comments by United Nations-system entities concerned prior to finalization. Thus, the data and information therein were verified or amended according to the comments received.

To access the full report, click: [JIU/REP/2021/2 \(unjiu.org\)](https://www.unjiu.org/jiu/rep/2021/2)



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Item 1

Almaty Programme of Action: Key Elements

The first dedicated global conference on LLDCs was the *International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation*, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in August 2003, which culminated in the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action 2003 – 2013 (APoA) and Almaty Declaration. The APoA's objective was to establish a global framework for action for developing efficient transit transport systems in LLDCs and Transit Developing Countries (TDCs), taking into account the interests of both. It has eight main aims and five priorities with associated actions.

The Second UN Conference on LLDCs (Vienna, November 2014) comprehensively reviewed the implementation of the APoA and outlined some key findings. The review found that overall, despite some progress, there remained a need for further global support for LLDCs, particularly in the areas of financial and technical assistance, in order to fully benefit from globalization.

ALMATY PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2003-2013)
OBJECTIVE
Establish a global framework for action for developing efficient transit transport systems in LLDCs and Transit Developing Countries (TDCs), taking into account the interests of both.
AIM
AIM 1: Secure access to and from the sea of transport according to applicable rules of international law. AIM 2: Reduce the delivered costs of imports. AIM 3: Develop adequate national networks; AIM 4: Open the way for export expansion AIM 5: Reduce costs and improve services to increase export competitiveness. AIM 6: Address problems of delays and uncertainties in trade routes AIM 7: Reduce loss, damage and deterioration en-route AIM 8: Improve safety of road transport and security of people along corridors
PRIORITIES AND RELATED ACTIONS
(1) Fundamental transit policy issues Further integrated approach to trade and transport sector development, taking account social, economic, fiscal, policy, regulatory, procedural and institutional considerations; Eliminate non-physical barriers to transit transport; Reform transport sector with private sector partnership; Promote public/private and cooperation; Establish regional transport corridors and adopt of common rules and standards; Strengthen existing institutional mechanisms at policy and operational levels to monitor and promote implementation of agreements and arrangements; and Promote integrated training programmes encompassing all levels in public and private sectors.
(2) Infrastructure development and maintenance Allocate greater share of public investment to develop infrastructure; Provide conducive environment for using all transport modes in transit transport services and develop capacities and legal regimes for multimodal transport operations; Construct "missing links" in regional and sub-regional transport networks; Encourage private-sector participation in transit transport infrastructure development through FDI, co-financing, Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and access to bond markets; Promote private-public partnership along trade/transport corridors through development and use of common ICT based management and monitoring systems; Additional actions are outlined vis-a-vis rail and road transport, ports, inland waterways, pipelines, air transport and communications.
(3) International trade and trade facilitation Accelerate accession process to WTO taking into account geographical disadvantage needs; Provide LLDCs and TDCs with assistance in trade facilitation taking into account Doha Ministerial Declaration and Monterrey Consensus on predictable access to all markets for developing countries;

<p>Facilitate transit traffic through border posts, expand use of IT, implement efficient customs control systems, simplify documents and procedures, and strengthen capacity-building of government agencies in trade and trade facilitation; Accede to and implement international conventions and instruments on road, rail, inland waterways and multimodal transport; Establish and strengthen national trade/transport boards/committees involving all major stakeholders, including private sector.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">(4) International support measures</p> <p>Facilitate external environment supportive of APoA + access to transit transport systems related ICT; further technical support through partnerships; increase FDI in developing and upgrading transit transport infrastructure; Provide grants and loans on concessional terms to implement identified APoA needs; Factor in economic and institutional weaknesses on LLDCs in evaluating viability of transit transport infrastructure projects; Build capacity to develop policies and practices on transport/ transit needs; Examine innovative financing modalities and sources (e.g. recurrent cost financing, untied aid, regional trusts, regional investment authorities); Prioritize financial assistance for: joint projects to further regional/sub-regional trade; investing in “missing links” vis-à-vis extending railways/roads to LLDCs; maintaining physical transit transport infrastructure; construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of oil and gas pipelines; development and maintenance of cost-effective routes and dry port; improving and establishing adjacent border points; rehabilitating and reconstructing transport infrastructure in post-conflict and post-disaster countries/regions. Prioritize technical assistance on: promoting and implementing transit agreements; social/market-oriented transit transport policies; experience exchange on development/ management of transit transport systems; transport sector privatization programmes; streamlining and standardizing import, export and customs procedures; elaborating implications of acceding to relevant international conventions; increasing access to bond markets and risk-sharing with public and private sector. Prioritize technical assistance for: training programmes on: customs; freight forwarding and clearing of transit cargo; infrastructure and equipment maintenance; road safety; environmental protection in transit transport; transit insurance; dry port development and management; and expansion of regional databases on road transport.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">(5) Means of implementation</p> <p>APoA implementation requires concerted and individual efforts; Prioritize technical assistance to promote efficient use of transit facilities, including application of ICT and simplification of procedures and documents; Consider programmes on e-commerce, trade facilitation and trade issues in LLDCs and transit developing countries and undertake analytical work and technical assistance on transit transport problems of LLDCs within mandate; Promote South-South and triangular cooperation; Expand programmes consistent with APoA to support LLDCs and TDCs improve transit transport systems; Organize sub-regional meetings to consider how to effectively implement APoA; Conduct comprehensive review of APoA implementation with receipt of substantive and technical assistance; Enhance cooperation and coordination with UN system organizations, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in LLDCs and TDCs, to ensure effective implementation of APoA in line with A/RES57/270 B; Establish and strengthen regular review + monitoring of transit/transport agreements implementation through dialogue and consultations.</p>

Source: JIU desk research of publicly available documentation from UN-OHRLLS and other sources.

Item 2

Vienna Programme of Action: Key elements and follow-up of its implementation

A. Vienna Programme of Action

The Second UN Conference on LLDCs adopted the Vienna Programme of Action 2014-2020 (as the successor to the Almaty Programme of Action) (subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly via resolution 69/137 adopted on 12 December 2014) to address the special development needs and challenges of LLDCs (landlockedness, remoteness, geographical constraints) in a more comprehensive and coherent manner, with specific goals, objectives and actions that also contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction,¹ and endeavour to turn landlocked countries into land-linked ones. It has six goals and six priorities, including two new priorities that were not contained in the APoA (regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation).

Four of the six priorities have their own corresponding objectives and all six priorities outline actions that need to be taken by Landlocked Developing countries (LLDCs), Transit Countries (TCs), Transit Development Countries (TDCs) and development partners (United Nations system organizations, other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, regional and multi-lateral development banks, Member States, Donor States, private sector etc) to realize the priorities.

B. Livingston Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA

The VPoA is complemented by the *Livingston Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs*² (adopted: 4 June 2015, Livingstone, Zambia) which outlines a series of actions that need to be taken by LLDCs, TDCs, TCs and their development partners in the following six areas: (a) Structural economic transformation in LLDCs; (b) International trade, trade facilitation and fundamental transit policy issues; (c) Infrastructure, regional integration and cooperation; (d) Means of implementation; (d) Mainstreaming and monitoring of the VPoA and (vi) Integration of LLDCs into the global development agenda.

C. Secretary-General's reports and General Assembly Resolutions on the VPoA

Six follow-up reports have been issued by the United Nations Secretary-General each year³ from 2015 to 2020 on progress in the implementation of the VPoA. Each report provides: a) an overview of socioeconomic development in LLDCs; b) status of implementation of each of the six priorities of the VPoA; c) progress of LLDCs towards select SDGs; d) Follow-up and review i.e. actions taken by UN system and other entities to support VPoA implementation; (e) conclusions and recommendations to further progress on VPoA implementation and (f) statistical tables on performance on key indicators relevant to the priorities of the VPoA.

These reports have subsequently been reviewed by the General Assembly, which in turn has adopted seven resolutions between 2015 and 2020 on follow-up to the second UN Conference on LLDCs.⁴ Each resolution highlight progress attained over the previous years, acknowledges the pending challenges, reemphasizes the need to implement actions outlined in the VPoA in the six priority areas, and outlines some new recommended actions based on evolving circumstances.

¹ The VPoA emphasizes strengthened partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners, within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations, and between the public and private sectors.

² <http://unohrrls.org/custom-content/uploads/2015/06/Livingstone-Call-for-Action.pdf>

³ A/70/205 (7 August 2015), A/71/313 (8 August 2016), A/72/272 (1 August 2017), A/73/297 (3 August 2018), A/74/113 (18 June 2019) and A/75/285 (4 August 2020).

⁴ A/RES/69/232 (20 January 2015), A/RES/70/217 (22 December 2015), A/RES/71/239 (21 December 2016), A/RES/72/232 (20 December 2017), A/RES/73/243 (20 December 2018), A/RES/74/15 (5 December 2019) and A/RES/75/228 (30 December 2020).

D. Mid-Term Review of the VPoA

From March 2018 to March 2019, at the half-way stage of the VPoA, two-thirds of the LLDCs (21/32 LLDCs)⁵ had prepared national level appraisals (reports)⁶, assessing progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further VPoA implementation. The national level appraisals fed into three regional mid-term reviews on VPoA implementation undertaken for Asia and Europe (February 2019), Africa (March 2019) and Latin America June 2019). The regional reviews incorporated experience-sharing and lessons learned on challenges faced by LLDCs and identified recommendations for strategies and mechanisms to address challenges and accelerate VPoA implementation. These regional reviews culminated in the issuance of regional mid-term reports for Latin America⁷ and Africa⁸ and outcome documents for Africa⁹ and Eurasia.¹⁰

Based on the review of the national and regional reports, as well as data and information from UN system and international organizations, pre-conference event reports, and other substantive reports, the fifth report of the Secretary-General (A/74/113) on VPoA implementation was prepared, which served as an overarching mid-term report outlining progress attained and challenges faced in VPoA implementation from 2014-2019 with recommendations for accelerating implementation from 2020-2024.

These reports were considered during the comprehensive high-level mid-term review of the VPoA (New York, 5-6 December 2019), which culminated in the adoption of a Political Declaration, which was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, through its fifth resolution (A/RES/74/15) on the VPoA. The Declaration reviews and assesses progress, gaps and challenges, and outlines a call for action to accelerate VPoA implementation, including recommended actions for LLDCs, TDCs, other Member States, UN system entities and other development partners.

E. Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in the Remaining Five Years

To address the challenges outlined in the mid-term review, and at the request of the Chair of the Group of LLDCs, a Roadmap of key actions and activities to mobilize accelerated implementation of the VPoA was developed by UN-OHRLLS in consultation with the UN system and other entities. The Roadmap:

- Outlines five guiding principles to steer the work of development partners;¹¹
- Outlines key asks from: policy makers from LLDCs, transit countries and development partners; the private sector; and multilateral and regional development banks;
- Identifies 23 action areas related to the six VPoA priorities, as well as an additional action area on coordination; and
- Provides a detailed mapping of implementing organizations, corresponding deliverables and activities and a timeline for each of the 24 action areas.

The Road Map was formally adopted during the Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of LLDCs of 20 August 2020. It is envisaged to be a living document that will evolve to reflect new priorities and will be reviewed through the inter-agency consultative group (IACG) on LLDCs.

⁵ VPoA national implementation reviews were not prepared by 11 LLDCs: Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Republic of Moldova, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

⁶ All national appraisals can be found on: www.lldc2conference.org/national/

⁷ Report of the midterm review meeting of Latin American countries preparatory to the comprehensive midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014–2024. June 2019.

<http://www.lldc2conference.org/custom-content/uploads/2019/10/19-00763-PSL.1-Report.pdf>

⁸ Report of UNECA/UN-OHRLLS Midterm Review of the Implementation of VPoA for LLDCs in the Africa Region. http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2019/06/Africa-Regional-Review-Report_VPoA-REV-.pdf

⁹ Outcome document - Africa Regional Midterm Review Meeting of VPoA for LLDCs

<http://www.lldc2conference.org/custom-content/uploads/2019/04/Adopted-Outcome-document-2-April.pdf>

¹⁰ Outcome Document - UNESCAP/UN-OHRLLS/UNECE Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of VPoA. <http://www.lldc2conference.org/custom-content/uploads/2019/02/OUTCOME-DOCUMENT-Euro-Asia-Reg-REV-.pdf>

¹¹ Enhance Coordination and Synergies; Leverage the UN Development System Reform; Integrate LLDC Priorities in Broad Sustainable Development Discussions; Strengthen Partnerships; and Showcase Good Practices and Promote Experience Sharing.

VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2014-2024)

Overarching Goal: Address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from land-lockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner, and thus contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty.



GOALS					
#1 Promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to/from sea by all transport means, on basis of freedom of transit and in accordance with international law	#2 Reduce trade transaction and transport costs and improve international trade services through simplification + standardization of rules and regulations to increase competitiveness of LLDC exports	#3 Develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks + complete missing links connecting LLDCs	#4 Effectively implement bilateral, regional, international instruments + strengthen regional integration	#5 Promote growth and increased participation in global trade through structural economic transformation (enhanced productive capacity development, value addition, reduced dependency on commodities)	#6 Strengthen international support to LLDC to address needs and challenges arising from landlockedness, with the view of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development



PRIORITIES					
Priority 1: Transit policy	Priority 2A: Transport Infrastructure	Priority 2B: Energy and ICT Infrastructure	Priority 3A: International Trade	Priority 3B: Trade facilitation	Priority 5: Structural economic transformation
OBJECTIVES OF EACH PRIORITY					
(a) Reduce travel time along corridors to allow transit cargo to move 300-400 kilometers every 24 hours. (b) Significantly reduce time spent at land borders. (c) Significantly improve intermodal connectivity to ensure efficient transfer of cargo (road-rail-ports).	(a) Significantly increase road quality, including share of paved roads (as per nationally appropriate standards). (b) Expand/upgrade railway infrastructure in LLDCs (as applicable). (c) Complete missing links in regional road/railway transit transport networks.	(a) Expand and upgrade supply, transmission and distribution infrastructure for modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas. (b) Make broadband policy universal. (c) Promote open and affordable access to the internet for all. (d) Engage actively to address the digital divide.	(a) Significantly increase LLDC participation in global trade and substantially increase exports. (b) Significantly increase value added + manufactured component of LLDC exports to diversify markets + products. (c) Strengthen economic/financial ties within region to gradually/consistently increase intraregional trade share. (d) Invite Member States to consider specific needs/ challenges of LLDCs in all international trade negotiations.	(a) Significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures to reduce port and border delays. (b) Improve efficiency of transit facilities to reduce transaction costs. (c) Ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.	(a) Increase value addition in manufacturing and agricultural sectors to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development; (b) Increase economic and export diversification; (c) Promote service-based growth, including from tourism; (d) Encourage inflow of foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors.
Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation (No related objectives)			Priority 6: Means of implementation (No related objectives)		



IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF VPoA			
NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS		GLOBAL LEVEL ACTIONS	
ACTION	ACTORS	ACTION	ACTORS
1. Mainstream VPoA into national and sectoral development strategies.	LLDCs	1. Undertake annual reviews of VPoA implementation through Secretary-General's reports. <i>Action by</i>	UNGA
2. Establish national coordination mechanisms where appropriate.	LLDCs & TDCs	2. Mainstream VPoA into organizational work programme + conduct sectoral and thematic reviews of VPoA.	GB-UNS orgs.
3. Involve all relevant stakeholders in VPoA monitoring, review (also in implementation and reporting)	LLDCs	3. Ensure coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on VPoA implementation	UN- OHRLLS
REGIONAL & SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS		4. Undertake advocacy efforts at national, regional and global levels.	UN- OHRLLS
ACTION	ACTORS	5. Developing relevant indicators to measure progress on implementing VPoA	UN- OHRLLS
1. Undertake monitoring and review through existing intergovernmental processes.	LLDCS + Development partners	6. Conduct comprehensive high-level midterm review on VPoA implementation.	UNGA
2. Mainstream VPoA implementation into relevant programmes.	RO, SRO, REC, RBD, OHRLLS, UNRECs	7. Hold Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs in 2024 to comprehensively appraise VPoA implementation and determine subsequent action.	UNGA
3. Submit analytical reports on VPoA implementation	UNRECs		
4. Engage actively in UN regional commissions' sessions on VPoA implementation.	RO, SRO, private sector.		



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
ACTION	ACTORS
• A/RES/74/15 (OP63, 65): (a) Provide support necessary to accelerate VPoA implementation; (b) Mobilize resources to enable the LLDC Unit of OHRLLS to fulfil its mandate	(a) UN system, UNRECs, others. (b) UN Secretary-General
• A/RES/73/243 (OP41): (a) Integrate VPoA into organizational programmes of work within respective mandates + support LLDCs and TDC in implementation of VPoA in a well-coordinated and coherent manner.	(a) UN system, IOs, RO, SRO, others.
• A/RES/72/232 (OP6): (a) Implement actions agreed upon in 6 priority areas of VPoA in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner	(a) UN system, development partners
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS BY UN-OHRLLS	
(a) Forge synergies between VPoA and other global processes, including follow-up processes of 2030 Agenda. (b) Provide investment + technical assistance to strengthen LLDC statistical capacity to collect/analyze data to produce reliable/frequent statistics to monitor VPoA implementation.	



PRIORITY 1. FUNDAMENTAL TRANSIT POLICY



Objective (a) Reduce travel time along corridors to allow transit cargo to move 300-400 kilometers every 24 hours. (VPoA)

Objective (b) Significantly reduce time spent at land borders. (VPoA)

Objective (c) Significantly improve intermodal connectivity to ensure efficient transfer of cargo (road-rail-ports). (VPoA)

Achievements

- All LLDCs:** (a) Increase in signatories to transport and transit agreements (e.g. WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation ratified by 25/26 WTO member LLDCs and 28 TDCs); (b) Development of new initiatives to support transit (regional, sub-regional, multilateral); (c) Agreements on establishment and use of dry ports; (d) Development of capacity building tools on transit (e.g. WCO's transit guidelines); (e) Improved TDC performance on reduced time at land borders; (f) Reduction in corridor travel in Central Asia, Latin America, Southern Africa; (g) Majority of 32 LLDCs are State Parties to UNCLOS. (A/74/113) (R-74/15, OP10) (Group of LLDCs Statement, 4/2/2020)
- African LLDCs:** (a) Increase in signatories to African Continental Free Trade Area + Single African Air Transport Market; (b) Increased/improved implementation of regional initiatives and transit facilitation agreements; (c) Corridor initiatives in nine African countries. (Africa Reg-Rev)
- Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Increase in signatories to and ratification of international conventions and agreements; (b) Increase in implementation of sub-regional and multilateral transit and transport facilitation arrangements. (Eurasia Reg-Rev)
- Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Improvements in international connectivity (Paraguay); (b) Progress in national development plan (Bolivia); (c) Establishment of institutions by regional bodies to facilitate trade and transit and simplify/ harmonize related processes; (d) Progress in trade facilitation and customs processes (physical infrastructure projects, coordination of initiatives with ECLAC to foster sustainable approach to regional development). (LatAm Reg-Rev)

Challenges

- All LLDCs:** (a) Deteriorating performance on reducing time spent at land borders; (b) Data not readily available to measure implementation of VPoA objective to improve intermodal connectivity (e.g. rail to road, port to rail and/or road); (c) More work needed to fully implement WTO-TFA and bring LLDC transport infrastructure to comparable global standards; (d) Marginal participation of LLDCs in ocean economy. (A/74/113)
- African LLDCs:** (a) Underdeveloped infrastructure with inadequate financial and human resources; (b) Insufficient technical/human capacities to address transit time and trade facilitation; (c) Inefficient port and transit services to achieve meaningful regional integration; (d) Data unavailable in African LLDCs to monitor indicators for corridors and ports lagging on VPoA targets; (e) Destruction of infrastructure exacerbated by climate change; (f) Implementation of Article 11 of WTO-TFA as category A by LLDCs (43%) lower than transit countries (49%) and developing countries (71%).
- Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Capacity constraints and lack of effective coordination in Eurasian LLDCs; (b) significant time fluctuations at borders of Eurasian LLDCs ranging from less than an hour (Kazakhstan-Russia) to 3-4 days (Afghanistan-Pakistan); (c) VPoA target for transit travel speed not achieved at many corridors. (Eurasia Reg-Rev)
- Latin American LLDCs:** (a) High costs and time delays in accessing major markets for Bolivia and Paraguay; (b) challenges in identification of new sources of financing VPoA linked initiatives. (LatAm Reg-Rev)

Recommended actions by LLDCs & Transit Countries (Vienna Programme of Action)

- Accede to/ratify/implement conventions + other legal instruments on transit transport and trade facilitation. (specifically addressed to WBG, WTO, WCO, IRU in Livingstone C/A)
- Ensure effective implementation of international and regional conventions and bilateral agreements on transit transport and trade facilitation, as applicable, to reduce transport prices and time.
- Enhance coordination/cooperation between/among national border and customs controls agencies.
- Create mechanisms (bilateral/regional) to address challenges/bottlenecks in implementing agreements and avert arrangements for quantitative restrictions to international transit.
- Promote simplification/transparency/harmonization of legal/administrative regulations/requirements related to transit systems (border crossings, consular services, customs procedures, removal of internal checkpoints).
- Develop effective logistic systems (align incentives for efficient transport/transit operations, promote competition, phaseout anti-competitive practices).
- Promote involvement of transport business associations (road, rail, inland waterway) in public-private partnership projects, knowledge exchange and implementation of successful transit cooperation initiatives and practices.
- Exchange trade and transport data to conduct cross-border transactions more efficiently.
- Formulate national transit policies and establish national mechanisms with relevant stakeholder participation.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (Vienna Programme of Action)

- Support LLDCs and TDCs in implementation of international conventions and agreements relating to transit facilitation + initiatives that promote transit cooperation, reduce transit costs and establish smooth logistic arrangements. (addressed specifically to UNCTAD, World Bank, WCO, regional development banks in Livingstone C/A)
- Support LLDCs and TDCs in establishing efficient and sustainable transit transport regimes + sharing of best practices related to experiences, policies and initiatives.
- Encourage regional/sub-regional organizations to provide technical and financial support to LLDCs and TCs to implement transit cooperation initiatives.

Recommended actions by LLDCs (General Assembly Resolutions)

- A/RES/74/15 (OP 9, 32, 33):**
 - (a) Adopt integrated / sustainable approach to international transport corridor management (to avoid duplicating efforts, promote regional connectivity, maximize associated economic opportunities) (also applies to TDCs);
 - (b) Promote corridor approach to improve trade and transit transport and reduce travel time.
- A/RES/73/243 (OP 13, 24, 25), A/RES/72/232 (OP 10, 13, 23, 24) & A/RES/71/239 (OP 10, 12, 22):**
 - (a) Improve trade facilitation through (i) streamlining and harmonizing customs, transit procedures and formalities, (ii) transparent and efficient border management and (iii) coordination of agencies involved in border clearance to enhance competitiveness of export products/services;
 - (b) Ratify trade/transport facilitation conventions: (i) Customs Conventions on: Containers (1972), Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956), International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (1975); (ii) International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982); (v) WTO-TFA (2013); (also A/RES/70/197, OP11)
 - (c) Implement international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, sub regional and regional agreements, cooperate on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between LLDCs and their transit neighbors for effective, integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems;
 - (d) Implement WTO-TFA for all members who have not done so and deposit the instrument of acceptance.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (General Assembly Resolutions)

- A/RES/74/15 (OP 34):**
 - (a) Provide support (policy, analytical, technical) towards development, functioning and management of corridors. (Action by: UN system, others)
- A/RES/73/243 (OP 25, 42) & A/RES/72/232 (OP 24, 41):**
 - (a) Provide capacity-building support to strengthen national statistical systems of LLDCs to enhance ability to capture and generate data and undertake statistical analysis, vis-a-vis monitoring and evaluating VPoA objectives (e.g. indicators on transit and objectives on transport). (Action by: UN system, others) (also A/RES/74/15, OP29; A/RES/71/239, OP37)
 - (b) Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to LLDCs vis-a-vis accession to and ratification and implementation of regional and international agreements (e.g. WTO-TFA) and for effective implementation of provisions of articles on release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities on importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation. (also A/RES/72/232, OP24)

Recommended actions by LLDCs (VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

- A/74/113:** (a) Implement obligations under WTO-TFA, TIR Convention, revised Kyoto Convention to improve transit; (b) Indicate capacity needs for measures vis-à-vis WTO-TFA, Section C.
- VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** (a) Support economic development by computerization and electronic tools e.g. TIR database (ITDB), eTIR, electronic pre-declaration tool (TIR-EPD); (b) Develop action plans and implement measures to reduce time spent at land borders including: (i) electronic exchange of cargo manifests; (ii) automated customs clearance system and paperless customs transit procedures; (iii) improvements of facilities and border crossing infrastructure; (iv) reduction of transloading at border crossings; (v) comprehensive integrity programme.
- UN-OHRLLS:** (a) Enhance efforts to reduce travel time along corridors + reduce cargo dwell times at seaports; (b) Use available tools to facilitate transit (e.g. WCO Transit Guidelines).

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (VPoA-MTR)

- VPoA-MTR-Africa:** (a) Support Pan-African Chamber of Commerce & Industry on popularizing single window paperless trading and African Alliance on E-Commerce on guidelines on single window implementation. (Action by: UN-ECA); (b) Conduct robust research and training to inform policy makers + collaborate with partners to support African member countries especially LLDCs (Action by: UN-ECA).
- VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** (a) Provide further technical support to LLDCs (Action by: UNECE, ESCAP, UN-OHRLLS, ITT-LLDCs, others); (b) Identify reasons for major delays and possibilities for streamlined movement across borders (e.g. use ESCAP-ECE Business Process Analysis guide).



PRIORITY 2A. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



Objective (a) Significantly increase road quality, including share of paved roads (as per nationally appropriate standards).

Objective (b) Expand/upgrade railway infrastructure in LLDCs (as applicable).

Objective (c) Complete missing links in regional road/railway transit transport networks.

Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Progress on expansion/upgrading of railways, roads, ports, air transport and inland waterways with closure of some missing links; (b) registered air carrier departures and share of global freight transport by air increased and Single African Air Transport Market launched. (A/74/113)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) 51 programs and 433 actionable projects on transport infrastructure development and connectivity implemented in African LLDCs (Africa Reg-Rev)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Multiple corridor projects implemented; multiple Eurasian transport network initiatives implemented; (a) Dry port and related infrastructure constructed (Eurasia Reg-Rev)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Progress in road-rail-waterway in Bolivia & Paraguay; (b) Increase in infrastructure and highway investment in transit country ports. (LatAm Reg-Rev)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Low road and rail density compared to global average, particularly in Africa; (b) Lack of capacity in formulating financially viable infrastructure projects; (c) inadequate financial resources for infrastructure facilities that connect with TDCs; (d) Few harmonized rules and procedures and limited cross-border investment and participation in LLDCs; (e) physical links to regional transport infrastructure networks below expectations. (A/74/113) (A/RES/74/15, OP11) (OHRLLS)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Highest trade transaction costs in African LLDCs due to inadequate transport infrastructure development - financing gap in infrastructure needs is \$68-108 billion; (b) Multiple challenges for registered carriers and airfreight in African LLDCs; (c) Challenges for port systems in Africa; (d) Intra-African exports significantly behind intra-Asian and intra-Europe exports. (Africa Reg-Rev)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Missing links due to poor maintenance + different technical regulations across region; (b) multiple challenges to Eurasian air transport industry + to UNECE Euro-Asian Transport Link Project. (Eurasia-RR)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Multiple transport infrastructure challenges: financing gaps; (b) Increasingly adverse effects of climate change on infrastructure; (c) Lack of standardized transport procedures etc. (LatAm Reg-Rev)

Recommended actions by LLDCs & Transit Developing Countries (Vienna Programme of Action)

1. Develop and implement comprehensive national policies for infrastructure development and maintenance (encompassing all transportation modes and ensuring coordination with TCs in areas where transit infrastructures intersect).
2. Collaborate to promote sustainable and resilient transit systems through: regularly upgrading/maintaining/developing corridors along transit routes; developing border-crossing mechanisms (e.g. one-stop border crossing); further economies of scale for transport systems through: intermodal transport development, dry ports, inland container depots, trans-shipment facilities, similar logistics hubs.
3. Harmonize gauges for regional connectivity; develop reloading capacities; expand training programmes and inter-railway staff exchange programmes.
4. Promote multilateral and regional permit systems for road transport to implement permit-free bilateral and transit road transport + expand multilateral quota systems among LLDCs and TCs.
5. Gradually liberalize road transport services (at bilateral, sub-regional, regional levels) taking into account special circumstances of LLDCs and TDCs.
6. Encourage the development of international logistic hubs.
7. Develop policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development + promote enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment.
8. Promote public-private-partnerships for development, maintenance and sustainability of transport infrastructure.
9. Develop inland transport networks including ancillary infrastructure (e.g. all-weather road, river, riverside support infrastructure) + involve local businesses in such services along highways and railway networks to creating development corridors along transit highways and railroads.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (VPoA)

1. Support LLDCs in infrastructure development and maintenance and support LDCs and TDCs in sharing experiences on transit transport development.
2. Transport development investment support to LLDC and TDCs from multilateral and regional development banks.
3. Assist LLDCs in completion of missing links in railroads and road systems.

Recommended actions by LLDCs (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP35):** (a) Create enabling environment for public and private sustainable investment and infrastructure operations; (b) Integrate development, upgrading and maintenance of national and transboundary transport and infrastructure corridors into national development strategies.
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP16):** Develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors for all modes of transportation (inland waterways, roads, rail networks, ports and pipelines).
- **A/RES/70/197 (OP10):** Encourage enhanced networking and periodic consultation among related stakeholders in development and operation of international transport and transit corridors.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 36):** Develop regionally integrated, sustainable (financially, environmentally) climate- and disaster-resilient transport infrastructure (with funding/support from development partners) (also applies to TDCs).
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP 11, 15 17, 18, 20):**
 - (a) Establish secure, reliable, efficient, high-quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transit transport systems, renewable energy and ICT (Action by: development partners, multilateral financial institutions/regional banks)
 - (b) Embed resilient/quality infrastructure investment plans into national sustainable development strategies, strengthen domestic enabling environments, provide technical support to translate plans into concrete project pipelines and for individual implementable projects (Action by: development partners, multilateral financial institutions/regional banks)
 - (c) Address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure by completing missing links (Action by: multilateral development banks including regional banks and stakeholders).
 - (d) Provide support to LLDCs within existing resources for international transport corridors for reducing trade costs, promoting regional sustainable development, improving export competitiveness and attracting more business (Action by: international community).
 - (e) Forge international, regional, sub regional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects; allocate more resources from national budgets; deploy international development assistance and multilateral financing in development / maintenance of infrastructure; strengthen role of private sector.

Recommended actions by LLDCs (VPoA-MTR, SG reports, OHRLLS publication)

- **A/74/113:** Address constraints in developing and maintaining road-rail infrastructure connectivity (limited financial resources, institutional bottlenecks, limited skilled human resources); address challenges for utilizing inland waterways: (i) reduction in water level during dry periods; (ii) silting; (iii) constraints in port infrastructure development; (iv) operational, management-related and regulatory issues; (v) inter-country coordination.
- **VPoA-MTR-Africa:** Develop infrastructure to support connectivity for African Continental Free Trade Area+ Single African Air Transport Market.
- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** Develop corridor-specific work plans (with governments, private sector): (i) goals and priorities for common transport infrastructure development; (ii) priority list of technical inter-operability standards to be streamlined along corridors; (iii) pooling of rolling stock and containers; (iv) KPI development to measure annual/bi-annual progress.
- **OHRLLS:** Invest in capacity-building and legal, regulatory and policy reform + promote integrated-sustainable approaches to international transport corridor management + promote railway transport where use is viable and rail networks already exist + close transport infrastructure gaps + build resilient infrastructure.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (reports)

- **OHRLLS:** Assist LLDCs to develop capacity to prepare large-scale, bankable infra-structure projects + explore innovative project financing mechanisms.
- **USG for LLDCs-Statement (2020):** Prepare substantive report on "Improving Transport Connectivity for LLDCs and Building of Resilient Transport Infrastructure to Support Accelerated Progress Towards SDGs".



PRIORITY 2B. ENERGY & INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)



Objective (a) Expand and upgrade supply, transmission and distribution infrastructure for modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas.	Objective (b) Make broadband policy universal.	Objective (c) Promote open and affordable access to the internet for all.	Objective (c) Engage actively to address the digital divide.
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Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Increase in mobile cellular subscriptions and doubling of internet users; (a) Increase in access to electricity + improvement in energy intensity due to upgradation/expansion of infrastructure for production, supply, transmission and distribution of modern, renewable energy services; (c) Marginal improvement in access to clean fuels and technology for cooking and renewable energy's share in total energy consumption. (A/74/113)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Increase in: (i) average % of population with access to electricity; (ii) % of population with internet access; (iii) fixed-broadband and mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 people. (Eurasia Reg-Rev)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Improved energy access; (b) Higher % of electricity matrix generated from renewable sources; (c) Increase in internet connection rates in rural areas; (d) Implementation of technologies in health and education services; (e) Implementation of Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean. (Latam Reg-Rev)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) 40% of LLDC population do not have access to electricity, with access rates varying greatly for rural-urban areas and by region; (b) Pace of completion of power projects is too slow; (c) High cost of ICT services (broadband, submarine cable access) exacerbated by lack of a regionally harmonized regulatory environment; (d) Multiple barriers to development of digital economy leads LLDCs to fall behind in e-commerce readiness; (e) 2/3 of LLDCs population do not have access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking. (A/74/113)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Energy infrastructure deficits: (i) lack of long-term energy development strategies, policies, programs; (ii) outdated/inefficient grid and transmission systems resulting in transmission and distribution loss; (b) ICT deficits: (i) high cost of ICT services including infrastructure gaps; (ii) low digital literacy rate; (iii) high submarine cable access costs; (iv) inadequate regulatory framework; (v) low access to ICT equipment. (Africa Reg-Rev)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Poor ICT connectivity and ICT interoperability on Euro-Asian Transport Link (EATL) Project corridors. (Eurasia Reg-Rev)

Recommended actions by LLDCs & Transit Developing Countries (Vienna Programme of Action)

1. Promote cross-border energy trade/transit (transmission lines to 3rd countries, cross-border power projects).
2. Develop national policies to promote modern, reliable, renewable energy (to enhance energy capacities in production, trade and distribution to ensure access to energy for all).
3. Modernize transit, transport, customs and other border facilities by utilizing ICTs.
4. Improve and harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks.
5. Develop national broadband policy (to improve access to international high-capacity fibre-optic cables and high-bandwidth backbone network).
6. Develop service sectors through development and integration of ICT infrastructures into all relevant areas (to promote competitiveness, innovation and inclusion, reduce transit time/cost, modernize transit and customs facilities).
7. Promote digital bridges (to interconnect national backbones so that countries far from sea cables have affordable broadband access and can expand affordable/accessible/high-quality telecom services).

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (Vienna Programme of Action)

1. Support LLDC efforts to develop energy and ICT sectors.
2. Promote energy-efficient investment in LLDCs and facilitate green economic transformation.
3. Support LLDCs in developing national broadband policy and necessary broadband infrastructure.
4. Provide capacity-building to LLDCs for modern/affordable ICT use.
5. Support LLDCs efforts with TDCs to facilitate access to ICTs, transfer of skills, knowledge and technology for development, maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure.

Recommended actions by LLDCs (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 38):**
 - (a) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
 - (b) Expand and upgrade supply, transmission and distribution infrastructure for electricity to accelerate power projects preparation;
 - (c) Acknowledge role of all energy sources and technologies in energy mix to improve transformational energy access. (also applies to TDCs)
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP 14, 21):**
 - (a) Accelerate sustainable energy for LLDCs by providing universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services through innovative partnerships;
 - (b) Develop and maintain transit transport infrastructure, ICT and energy infrastructure to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated into the global market.
- **A/RES/70/197 (OP 6):**
 - (a) Adopt energy efficiency and low carbon technologies to make improvements to transport and transit corridors and related infrastructure

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 40, 53):**
 - (a) Establish ICT infrastructure, applications and services to reduce high costs for broadband and digital divide (Action by: development partners) (also applies to TDCs);
 - (b) Enhance participation and integration into e-commerce through facilitating e-commerce development policies, addressing barriers to digital economy development, addressing gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks, and developing digital skills (Action by: international partners).
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP 26):**
 - (a) Assist LLDCs in developing ICT infrastructure and ensure appropriate policies, legal and regulatory frameworks in place to support ICT development to close digital divide (Action by: development partners).

Recommended actions by LLDCs (VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

- **VPoA-MTR-Africa:** Intensify implementation of Rural Electrification Programmes + Light up and Power Africa initiative; scale up projects on cross border inter-connectors (power); encourage private sector participation in development of national energy sector (also applies to TDCs).
- **VPoA-MTR-Latin America:** Harmonize energy infrastructure and develop agreements to promote convergence e.g. combine transport infrastructure construction projects with building energy and ICT infrastructure.
- **UN-OHRLLS:** Invest in ICT infrastructure and development of ICT skills + address rural-urban divide + integrate ICTs in all relevant areas for competitiveness enhancement; create enabling environment (policies, legal and regulatory framework) to support ICT development; enhance participation in e-commerce (adopt policies facilitating development of e-commerce infrastructure).

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** Eurasian LLDCs should develop necessary hard and soft ICT infrastructure, implement necessary legal framework to enhance digital skills and promote digital inclusion. (with technical support from UN-ESCAP, UN-ECE, ITU)
- **UN-OHRLLS:** Provide financial and technical support to LLDCs to develop and implement energy projects, including to take full advantage of climate funding for energy.



PRIORITY 3A: INTERNATIONAL TRADE



Objective (a) Significantly increase LLDC participation in global trade and substantially increase exports.

Objective (b) Significantly increase value added and manufactured component of LLDC exports to diversify markets and products.

Objective (c) Strengthen economic and financial ties within region to gradually and consistently increase intraregional trade share.

Objective (d) Invite Member States to consider specific needs and challenges of LLDCs in all international trade negotiations.

Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Mainstreaming of trade into national strategies and updating of trade-related policies; (b) Fall in LLDC trade deficit from \$33 billion (2015) to \$23 billion (2018); (c) Fall in ratio of export and imports to GDP from 68.9% (2014) to 63.2% (2017). (A/74/113)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Initiatives to diversify economies and enhance trade participation in Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe. (Africa-RR)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Increase in project implementation including: (i) mechanism for public-private dialogue with Latin American Integration Association support; (ii) Publication of protocols to standardize consultation and policy implementation processes; (iii) Global Trade Helpdesk to provide all information necessary to import and export goods. (LatAm Reg-Rev)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) LLDC cost of trade double that of TDCs, thereby limiting competitiveness and resulting in decline in LLDC share of global exports, including global merchandise exports, and increase in merchandise imports; (b) Lack of availability of trade finance in LLDCs; (c) Undiversified and limited range of export products by LLDCs – mostly low-value raw agricultural products and mineral resources – contribute to persistent trade deficits. (A/74/113)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Decline in Eurasian LLDCs' share of global exports from 0.85% (2014) to 0.6% (2017); (b) Trade performance challenges: (i) limited manufacturing capacity and export diversification; (ii) transit barriers; (iii) low quality infrastructure; (iv) missing links; (v) high trade costs; (vi) dependence on external conditions; (c) Reliance on limited number of destination countries, mainly non-LLDC transit neighbors; (d) Unavailability of high-technology exports (except Kazakhstan, Lao PDR). (Eurasia-RR)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Decline in exports and predominant effect of prices on the volume of exports (2011-2015); (b) Dual economic structure in Latin America and the Caribbean; (c) Fluctuating % of exports to MERCOSUR countries: decline in Bolivia, increase in Paraguay (2011-18); (d) Reliance of single modes of transport for exports: pipelines carried 82.3% of Bolivian exports and waterways transport 73% of Paraguayan exports. (LatAm Reg-Rev)

Recommended actions by LLDCs (Vienna Programme of Action)

1. Develop national trade strategy based on comparative advantages and regional and global opportunities.
2. Integrate trade policies into national development strategies.
3. Promote better business environment to integrate national firms into regional/global value chains.
4. Promote policies to help national firms (especially SMEs) participate more fully in international trade.
5. Fully leverage bilateral and regional preferential trading arrangements.
6. Implement policies and measures to increase economic and export diversification and value added.
7. Conduct studies on logistical competitiveness and logistical costs (based on internationally recognized methodologies) (Action by: LLDCs and TDCs).
8. Promote investment in LLDCs (to promote productive and trading capacities + support participation in regional trade arrangements) (Action by: TDCs).
9. Improve market access for products from LLDCs without arbitrary and unjustified non-tariff barriers (that are not in conformity with WTO rules) (Action by: TDCs).

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (VPoA)

1. Support efforts by LLDCs to: (i) diversify exports; (ii) integrate into value chains (global, regional); (iii) effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations.
2. Address non-tariff measures + reduce/eliminate arbitrary/unjustified non-tariff barriers (that are not in conformity with WTO rules).
3. Promote better SME integration within international trade by: strengthening institutions that support trade; fostering trade competitiveness; building spaces for private-public dialogue; fostering technical/vocational education + training + capacity-building; creating market linkages through business-to-business platforms (Action by: development partners).
4. Promote diffusion/uptake of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms.
5. Offer technical assistance + capacity-building to LLDCs to complete WTO accession process, fulfil commitments, integrate into multilateral trading system.
6. Provide aid for trade to LLDCs consistent with WTO guidelines.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15, (OP 41, 44):**
 - (a) Formulate and implement national export strategies and trade and industrial policies for diversifying export structure to add value to exports and expand participation in sustainable regional and global value chains (Action by: development partners).
 - (b) Enhance market access for LLDC exports (except arms and armaments) (Action by: Member States).
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP22):**
 - (a) Provide assistance, within existing resources to strengthen capacity to participate in regional/global value chains (Action by: UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP, OHRLLS)

Recommended actions by LLDCs (VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

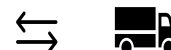
- **A/74/113:** Increase international trade to: (i) increase the extent of LLDC markets; (ii) alleviate constraints imposed by limited domestic markets; (iii) acquire capital goods to pursue structural transformation; and (iv) access consumption goods not domestically produced.
- **UN-OHRLLS:** Strengthen services sector and integrate into e-commerce (develop legal framework and national e-commerce strategies).

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (Livingstone CFA, VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

- **Livingstone Call for Action:** Establish preferential market access scheme specifically for LLDCs exports with tariff concessions and without non-tariff barriers (Action by: developed and developing countries).
- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** Support LLDCs in harnessing the role of commodities sector for socio-economic development by putting in place commodity-based policies and strategies (Action by: UNCTAD, UN-OHRLLS, Common Fund for Commodities).
- **UN-OHRLLS:** (a) Work with LLDCs to identify specific sectors / sub-sectors with export potential and implement targeted policies to promote their development (Action by: development partners); (b) Strengthen LLDC institutions that foster trade and competitiveness, enhance private-public dialogue and capacity development (Action by: development partners); (c) Address tariff peaks and escalations and nontariff barriers imposed on manufactured goods from LLDCs (Action by: development partners).



PRIORITY 3B: TRADE FACILITATION



Objective (a) Significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures to reduce port and border delays.

Objective (b) Improve efficiency of transit facilities to reduce transaction costs.

Objective (c) Ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with WTO Agreement on Trade

Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Adoption of measures/tools to implement WTO-TFA by LLDCs: (i) cross-border paperless trade; (ii) e-based transit and transport facilitation tools; (iii) single-stop inspections; (iv) electronic payment and transparency; (v) modernization of border posts and customs services; (vi) establishment of trade facilitation committees in 22 LLDCs; (vii) adoption of instruments for authorized economic operators; (viii) establishment of one-stop-border-posts; and (ix) establishment of trade information portals; (b) Ratification of WTO-TFA by 25/26 LLDCs that are WTO members and 28 TDCs. ((A/74/113)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Establishment of One-Stop-Border Posts; (b) conduct of regional trade facilitation and Information Communication Technology initiatives. (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Implementation of trade facilitation reforms; (b) Adoption of Single Window facilitation tools; (c) Improved customs clearance and procedures; (d) Establishment of national committee on trade facilitation (Armenia, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia); (e) Use of ICT solutions for: streamlining/modernizing customs clearance procedures/formalities; (f) Ratification of WTO-TFA by all but one Euro-Asian LLDCs that are WTO members. (*Eurasia Reg-Rev*)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Low rate of implementation of WTO-TFA notifiable provisions by LLDCs (34.3%) compared to developing (61.5%) and developed (100%) countries (A/74/113)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Border compliance for exports requires 73% more time in sub-Saharan Africa than global average; (b) Implementation of trade facilitation measures by African LLDCs (51.4%) lower than global average (60%). (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Limited implementation of paperless trade; (b) Need to reduce transaction times and costs in trade, improve cross-border facilitation between the two countries. (*LatAm Reg-Rev*)

Recommended actions by LLDCs

(Vienna Programme of Action)

1. Establish/strengthen national trade facilitation committees with relevant stakeholder involvement, including the private sector.
2. Scale up + implement trade facilitation initiatives (e.g. single-stop inspections, single windows for documentation, electronic payment and transparency, modernization of border posts and customs services).
3. Implement integrated border management systems + establish one-stop border posts (for joint processing of legal and regulatory requirements with neighboring countries) to reduce clearance time at borders.
4. Ensure full and inclusive representation of private sector, including PPPs and transport business associations in trade facilitation initiatives and policy + develop policies and regulatory framework to promote private sector involvement.

Recommended actions by Transit Development Countries

(Vienna Programme of Action)

1. Ensure that trade facilitation initiatives (e.g. WTO-TFA) are developed/implemented with LLDCs in relevant areas.
2. Harmonize, simplify and standardize rules, documentation requirements and border crossing and customs procedures; enhance collaboration among customs and border-crossing agencies; promote use of e-transactions processes, pre-arrival submission of customs declarations, risk management inspection systems and authorize economic operator systems; improve transparency/predictability/consistency in customs activities; establish one-stop border posts, joint customs controls, inspections and integrated border management with LLDCs. (*addressed specifically to WCO – Livingstone CFA*)
3. Share best practices (in customs, border and corridor management; implementation of trade facilitation policies) at all levels (global, regional, sub-regional, South-South, private sector).
4. Utilize trade facilitation tools developed by international organizations to build national capacity + ensure secure/reliable transport across borders by implementing existing international standards and best practices for customs transit and safety and security of transport chains.
5. Ensure transparency in border crossings, customs and transit transport rules, regulations, fees and charges + accord non-discriminatory treatment to guarantee freedom of transit to LLDCs.

Recommended actions requiring development partner support

(VPoA)

1. Support LLDCs and TDCs in trade facilitation (in accordance with WTO-TFA) + encourage international organizations to help LLDCs to assess WTO-TFA implementation needs and relevant trade facilitation measures. (*Addressed specifically to ITC, UNCTAD, World Bank – Livingstone CFA*)
2. Support activities to simplify, streamline and harmonize import, export, customs procedures.
3. Encourage sharing of experiences and best practices on trade facilitation to create environment that allows implementation of multi-country customs transit guarantee regimes.
4. Support capacity-building + training programs in customs, border clearance and transport.
5. Encourage regional aid for trade (to promote trade integration among LLDCs and transit countries).

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (General Assembly Resolutions)

A/RES/74/15 (OP 42, 43, 45):

- (a) Reduce “before the border” trade costs by improving transport networks and customs procedures and apply tech-driven ICT solutions to expedite international trade (*Action by: development partners + trade partners*);
- (b) Determine and notify on technical assistance needs regarding implementation of 60% of provisions of WTO-TFA (*Action by: development partners to implement commitments*);
- (c) Strengthen trade financing for MSMEs and promote trade finance facilitation programmes (*Action by: development partners + Multilateral Development Banks*).

Recommended actions by LLDCs (VPoA-MTR)

- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** (a) Implement ESCAP Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific; (b) Establish mechanisms to monitor progress in streamlining trade procedures; (c) Promote greater use of technology-driven ICT solutions to trade facilitation including introduction of paperless trade, automation of customs procedures and clearance systems, and implementation of single window environment.

Recommended actions requiring development partner support

(VPoA-MTR)

- **VPoA-MTR-Africa:** Facilitate implementation of AfCTA including trade facilitation elements and develop AfCFTA National Implementation Strategies (*Action by: UN-ECA, Regional Economics Commissions, African Union Commission, Member States*).



PRIORITY 4: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION



Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Broader cooperation among LLDCs, and with their neighbors, on investment, research and development and policies supportive of regional industrial development and regional connectivity; (b) Involvement in new and ongoing regional integration initiatives: (i) Eurasian Economic Union (2015, 3 LLDCs); (ii) ASEAN Economic Community (2015, 1 LLDC); (iii) Belt and Road Initiative (2013, multiple LLDCs); (iv) Atlantic-Pacific connection corridor (Bolivia, Paraguay); Europe-Caucasia-Asia Transport Corridor (multiple LLDCs); (c) Increase in the average number of regional trade agreements LLDCs are party to from 3.34 (2014) to 3.91 (2019), with nine LLDCs entering into new regional trade agreements. (*A/74/113*)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Entry into force of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) (May 2019) expected to facilitate LLDC integration into regional trade and value chains and expand trade capabilities; (b) Launch of COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area, ratified by 4/14 required countries as of October 2019; (c) Increase in signatories to Single African Air Transport Market expected to: (i) facilitate open/connected African market and trade; (ii) enable African firms to link into global supply chains; (iii) decrease transit time of fresh produce; (iv) encourage investment and innovation; (v) boost African tourist sector. (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Entry into agreements (along with transit countries) to enhance infrastructure connectivity and facilitate cargo movement across borders: (i) motor vehicles agreement to facilitate cargo movement across borders (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal); (ii) road connectivity and transit agreement (India, Nepal); (iii) road transport and trilateral economic partnership agreement (China, Mongolia, Russia); (iv) rail freight transit transport (Mongolia, Russia); (v) transit and trade agreement (China, Nepal); (vi) Lapis-Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route Agreement (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Turkmenistan); (vii) ASEAN Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (2016); (viii) Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific (2016). (*Eurasia Reg-Rev*)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Wide variances in number of regional trade agreements that LLDCs are party to (ranging from 1-9), averaging more for LLDCs from Eurasia compared to Africa; (b) LLDC share of intra-regional exports declined from 64.8% (2014) to 64.6% (2016/17). Regionally, there were declines in Africa (30.9% to 28.7%) and Latin America (58% to 52.4%) but increases in Asia (75.7% to 78.5%).

Recommended Actions by LLDCs (*Vienna Programme of Action*)

1. Promote regional integration by strengthening regional trade, transport, communication and energy networks.
2. Promote harmonization of regional policies to strengthen regional synergy, competitiveness, and regional value chains.
3. Strengthen participation in bilateral/regional integration frameworks (+ *focus on quality over quantity-OHRLLS*)
4. Contribute to deepening regional infrastructure, through the coherent development of regional infrastructure, trade facilitation measures and regional trade agreements, including establishment of effective and efficient customs guarantee systems to help LLDCs overcome constraints resulting from landlockedness (*action by TDCs*).

Recommended Actions by LLDCs (*General Assembly Resolutions*)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 46):** (a) Integrate into regional/global value chains: strengthen productive linkages; support development of regional supply chains; improve quality/effective implementation of regional integration agreements.
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP27), A/RES/72/232 (OP25), A/RES/71/239 (OP23):** (a) Promote regional integration to encompass cooperation in areas other than trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies to accelerate regional industrial development and regional connectivity

Recommended actions by LLDCs (*VPoA-MTR, OHRLLS*)

- **A/74/113:** (a) Implement African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to: (i) benefit from provisions on tariffs, trade facilitation, transit and customs cooperation; (ii) integrate into regional value chains; and (iii) expand trade capabilities;
- **(b)** Strengthen cooperation beyond trade and explore potential for regional cooperation on joint projects in infrastructure, trade and transport facilitation, research and development; (c) Integrate into Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to improve connectivity in infrastructure, trade, finance and policies and overcome development challenges relating to landlocked-ness.
- **UN-OHRLLS:** Increase cooperation with neighboring states in tourism and transit.

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (*Vienna Programme of Action*)

1. Support LLDCs and transit partners deepen regional integration through development and implementation of key regional transport projects and regional transport agreements to facilitate cross-border movement of goods and passengers.
2. Support ongoing regional integration processes involving LLDCs.
3. Share best practices in promoting regional integration.

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (*General Assembly Resolutions*)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 47):** (a) Support LLDC and TDCs in leveraging opportunities provided by regional initiatives and integration (*Action by: UN system, others*),

Recommended actions requiring development partner support (*VPoA-MTR*)

- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** (a) Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to LLDC and TDCs in leveraging opportunities provided by regional initiatives and integration, including for effective accession, ratification, implementation of conventions, agreements and frameworks, and further synergy and complementarity among such frameworks (*Action by: external and international organizations*); (b) Undertake regional integration initiatives that encompass investment, research and development, policy coordination dialogue, industrial development and regional connectivity.



PRIORITY 5: STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



Objective (a) Increase value addition in manufacturing and agricultural sectors to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Objective (b) Increase economic and export diversification.

Objective (c) Promote service-based growth, including from tourism.

Objective (d) Encourage inflow of foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors.

Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Many LLDCs made structural economic transformation central to national development plans since VPoA adoption; (b) Decrease in LLDCs Export Concentration Index from 0.359 (2014) to 0.239 (2017) but higher than for all developing countries (0.091); (c) Efforts made to support private sector development + improvements in legal regulatory environment for businesses. (*A/74/113*)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Measures implemented for structural economic transformation: (i) standards setting bodies established and enhanced; (ii) technical regulations and infrastructure developed; (iii) research and development; (iv) trade services liberalized; (v) competition boosted; (vi) incentives and tariffs for investment set; (b) Adoption of plans, policies and strategies (micro and macroeconomic, industrialization, structural transformation) by African LLDCs: (i) Accelerated Industrial Development Plan for Africa; (ii) National Industrial Development Policies; (iii) Special Economic Zones Policies; (iv) Human Resource Development Strategies; (v) National Export Strategies; (vi) Research, Science, Technology and Innovation strategies. (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Economic transformation policies, programmes, measures adopted include: (i) establishment of agency for SMEs (Azerbaijan); (ii) adoption of economic development, FDI and PPP policies (Bhutan); (iii) adoption of export programme to support value-added processing (Mongolia); (iv) adoption of sectoral policies on agricultural development, trade integration, ICT, foreign investment and national tourism (Nepal) (*Eurasia Reg-Rev*)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) GDP growth rate higher than regional average; (b) Production capacities higher than LLDC average; (c) Progress on indices on inequality, poverty and extreme poverty; (d) Sustained GDP growth rate due to domestic demand and increased public investment (especially Bolivia) (*LatAm Reg-Rev*)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Limited progress towards structural transformation: shift from agro-manufacturing to service sector occurring at much lower income levels in LLDCs than in early industrialized nations; (b) Low value of domestic credit to private sector (as % of GDP) + lack of access to capital for MSME; (c) 82.3% of all LLDC exports are primary commodities - compared to 30% in all developing countries; (d) Commodities account for 60% of exports in 26/32 LLDCs resulting in: (i) exacerbated vulnerability to excessive price volatility and exogenous economic/environmental shocks; (ii) limited competitiveness; (iii) limited ability to create high value-added products; (iv) limited productive employment; (v) hampered integration into value chains due to limited manufacturing and industrial capacity; (e) Lack of diversification: (i) low-productivity services characterize (growing) value-added share of service sector to GDP; (ii) share of manufacturing sector to GDP in single digits; (iii) share of agriculture sector to GDP declined in 19/27 LLDCs, despite heavy reliance on agro-industry to drive structural transformation. (f) Trend of de-industrialization in LLDCs. (*A/74/113*) (*OHRLLS*)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Decline in real GDP growth and share of manufacturing and agriculture in GDP for African LLDCs; (b) Capacity deficits: (i) Lack of capacity to compete with neighboring transit countries for investment; (ii) Weak implementation capacity; (iii) Lack of capacity to invest in R&D and infrastructure; (iv) Undiversified routes to sea ports; (c) Challenges in growing service sector: (i) barriers to trade in services more complex (relative to barriers to trade in goods); (ii) relatively underdeveloped regulatory environment; (iii) telecommunications, transport and professional services relatively restricted in many countries; (iv) regulatory requirements; (v) immigration policies restrict movement of persons. (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Low technology intensity and acquisition; (b) Investment in research and development only 0.24% of GDP for all LLDCs (0.1% to 0.44% of GDP in Eurasian LLDCs). (*Eurasia Reg-Rev*)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Commodities dependent growth - global downturn in demand for hydrocarbons and mining products falling commodity prices affect export bases; (b) Unsustainable structural change without development of production capacities; (c) Productivity gap between MSMEs and large firms greater in Latin America than in advanced economies. (*LatAm Reg-Rev*)

Recommended actions by LLDCs & TDCs (VPoA)

1. Develop structural transformation strategy to improve science, technology and innovation; export diversification; productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, including tourism.
2. Encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship, use of modern/cost-effective/locally adapted technologies in: agriculture, transport, ICT, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation, education; develop effective PPPs.
3. Build critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in manufacturing, agriculture and services.
4. Attract more diversified FDI through creating conducive environment to: (i) enhance value addition, productive capacity, transit transport infrastructure; (ii) complete missing links connecting LLDCs with regional networks.
5. Undertake measures to modernize services sector by strengthening links between/among: (i) financial intermediaries; (ii) create industrial clusters; (iii) legal services; (iv) technical services.
6. Create industrial clusters (e.g. export-processing zones, regional centers of excellence) to foster knowledge networks and connections among companies.
7. Prioritize private sector development, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (*through enabling regulations and policies, grants, finance, enhanced access to credit, training and skills-building - OHRLLS*)
8. Develop industrial policy that accounts for need to: (i) improve access to financial resources; (ii) develop appropriate human capacity; (iii) invest in supportive economic infrastructure to further strengthen private sector.
9. Strengthen effective competition policy to: (i) support business activity; (ii) consolidate supportive legal and regulatory framework; (iii) create macroeconomic conditions/systems that facilitate private sector development.
10. Ratify Multilateral Agreement for establishment of International Think Tank for LLDCs and utilize it to share experiences, know-how, research/resources on trade, transit, transport and capacity-building among LLDCs.

Recommended actions by LLDCs & TDCs (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 48, 49, 62):**
 - (a) Promote: (i) innovative solutions in agriculture, transport, information and communications, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education; (ii) effective public-private partnerships through investments in: (i) education and skills development; (ii) technical, vocational, tertiary education and training, ensuring gender equality/empowerment at all levels.
 - (b) Encourage private sector development by enhancing private sector capabilities in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for LLDCs and improving economic governance and business regulations. (*also: A/RES/73/243, OP36*)
 - (c) Ratify/accede to multilateral agreement to establish International Think Tank for LLDCs.

Recommended actions by LLDCs (Livingstone CFA SG Reports, VPoA-MTR, OHRLLS)

- **Livingstone CFA:** (a) Establish/strengthen industrial clusters (e.g. Special Economic Zones) to (i) ensure expansion of exports and economic diversification; (ii) foster skills, innovation, competitiveness; (iii) support manufacture of value-added goods; (b) Establish special fund from extractive industry windfall to reinvest in competitive / value-added / diversified local supply industry based on identified trade opportunities.
- **A/74/113:** (a) Reverse de-industrialization trend and provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to LLDCs to further industrialization; (b) Diversify economy into light manufacturing and tourism services; (c) Diversify agricultural production and export base and increase agricultural productivity; (d) Address climate change impacts (*A/74/113*)
- **VPoA-MTR-Africa:** (a) Design policies to promote structural transformation and economic diversification; (b) enable macroeconomic, trade, financial research and development policies; (c) Create backward and forward linkages among manufacturing, agriculture and services sectors; (d) Create conducive regulatory and investment environment for local private sector and MSMEs; (e) Leverage regional and continental industrialization and transformative initiatives (IADA, AfCFTA, WTO-TFA); (f) Scale-up use of smart technology and skills development increasing productivity, global competitiveness and foreign earnings; (g) Take advantage of e-commerce opportunities to participate in value chains; (h) Review production processes for manufacturing and agricultural products to identify services impediments; (i) Undertake research to better evaluate complex role of services boosting overall economic competitiveness; (j) Enhance capacity building to LLDCs in dealing with services negotiations; (k) Enhance liberalization of services sectors necessary to support industrialization and trade facilitation.
- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** (a) Enable policies (macro-economic, trade, financial, labor market, human resource, research & development); (b) Increase levels of human capital, improve connectivity, strengthen institutional and governance capabilities; (c) Increase investment in research and development to promote innovation, and investment in education and health sectors to boost economy; (d) Industrialize agriculture, and promote agribusiness and agro-processing with potential for economic diversification.
- **OHRLLS reports:** (a) Focus on higher value-added products and higher productivity sectors; (b) Provided targeted incentives to sectors with potential for export promotion / diversification / value-addition; (c) Utilize new/existing technologies in production of manufactured-agricultural products; (d) Prepare/implement national climate change mitigation and resilience policies with international support.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (VPoA)

1. Support LLDC efforts to improve productive capacity and create economic diversification (*and increase value addition - OHRLLS*)
2. Contribute to LLDC efforts to share (*access - OHRLLS*) innovative technologies, scientific knowledge, technical know-how and best practices.
3. Support efforts to increase value addition of agricultural and industrial output.
4. Support LLDCs in institutional-human capacity-building to improve ability to attract FDI (in high-value added sectors) and enhance negotiation skills (for bringing in responsible investment).
5. Support LLDCs to pursue effective partnerships for: capacity-building, sustainability, quality enhancement and sectoral development (e.g. tourism).
6. Support LLDCs to build resilience, develop capacity to respond to external shocks, and address specific supply-side constraints.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 41, 44, 51, 54, 55, 56, 62):**
 - (a) Improve legal and regulatory environment for private sector and businesses, particularly MSMEs + build institutional and human capacities + develop policies, infrastructure, national and regional centers for science, technology and innovation (*Action by: development partners and international partners*);
 - (b) Utilize technology/research funds (established by partners) to: (i) support LLDCs in technology adaptation and use; (ii) enhance investments (domestic/international) in research and development in LLDCs.
 - (c) Make voluntary contributions to budget of International Think Tank for LLDCs (*Action by: Member States + other relevant stakeholders*).
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP 23, 28, 29, 32):**
 - (a) Support LLDCs to increase the share of services in their economies and exports through enabling policies to: (i) enhance productivity, (ii) reduce the cost of doing business and (iii) promote job creation.
 - (b) Renew/strengthen development partnerships to support LLDCs to diversify economic base and add value to exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of productive capacities via private sector involvement and development of SMEs.
 - (c) Undertake measures to negate impact of geographical disadvantages and external shocks + promote socio-economic development by an enabling international economic environment to support LLDCs national development efforts.
 - (d) Support LLDCs to address the challenges of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts (*Action by: international community*).

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (Livingstone CFA SG Reports, OHRLLS)

- **Livingstone CFA:** Provide technical assistance/help to contract experienced consultants to support resource-rich LLDCs in negotiating contracts/licenses leading to concurrent development of capacity (*action by: UNDP, UNCTAD*)
- **A/74/113:** Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to LLDCs to further industrialization + diversify agricultural production and export base.
- **OHRLLS:** Increase investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness, early warning and early action.



PRIORITY 6: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION



Achievements

- **All LLDCs:** (a) Increase in South-South and triangular cooperation; (b) Increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows to LLDCs from 24 billion (2014) to 28 billion (2017) (17% of total flows to developing countries); (c) Increase in aid-for-trade disbursements to LLDCs from \$6 billion (2014) to \$7.2 billion (2017) (16.8% of total disbursements to developing countries); (d) Indicators developed to measure progress in LLDCs in VPoA implementation. (*A/RES/74/15*)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) ODA flows to African LLDCs increased by 24% (2014-17); (b) VPoA mainstreamed into Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (2017-2022). (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) Increased aid-for-trade disbursements has contributed to lower trade costs, better border institutions and smoother regulatory procedures. (*Eurasia Reg-Rev*)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Increase in private financing due to rise in foreign direct investment and migrant remittances. (*LatAm-RR*)

Challenges

- **All LLDCs:** (a) ODA flows constituting 4% (2017) of GNI in LLDCs (compared to 0.6% in all developing countries) is their primary source of external development finance; (b) Over 50% of ODA flows to LLDCs is concentrated in only six countries (Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Uganda, Malawi, Mali); (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to LLDCs (only 1.6% of global flows) declined from 36.3 billion (2011) to 22.7 billion (2017); (d) Over 50% of FDI flows to LLDCs is concentrated in only five LLDCs (Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia); (e) LLDCs attracted only 3% of all greenfield FDI projects in the developing world in 2017; (f) Remittance flows to LLDCs declined from \$33.2 billion (2014) to \$31.5 billion (2018) with the majority going to five countries; (g) Illicit financial flows adversely impact domestic resource mobilization and sustainability of public finances in LLDCs; (h) Average tax revenue in LLDCs insufficient to meet development needs. (*A/RES/74/15*) (*A/74/113*)
- **African LLDCs:** (a) Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda account for 46% of ODA flows to 16 African LLDCs; (b) FDI flows to African LLDCs (\$8.2 billion) account for only 0.58% of total global FDI inflows and only 36.2% of FDI inflows to all LLDCs (c) Challenges in means of implementation for African LLDCs include: (i) Limited knowledge of VPoA nationally and regionally; (ii) Inadequate resources for infrastructure investment; (iii) Lack of baseline information to report; (iv) Inadequate social and economic research; (v) Lack of monitoring and reporting. (*Africa Reg-Rev*)
- **Eurasian LLDCs:** (a) ODA flows to Eurasian LLDCs declined from \$9.4 billion (2014) to \$8.7 billion (2017); (b) FDI flows declined by 35% (2014-2017) with three countries accounting for over 75% of FDI flows to 14 Eurasian LLDCs. (*Eurasia-RR*)
- **Latin American LLDCs:** (a) Economic infrastructure sectors received only 9% of ODA expenditure in Bolivia compared to 43% in Paraguay. (*LatAm Reg-Rev*)

Recommended actions by LLDCs (GA Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 26, 31, 58, 59):** (a) Implement VPoA through mobilizing domestic, external, public and private resources (**also applies to TDCs**). (b) Leverage Official Development Assistance to attract Foreign Direct Investment, Public Private Partnerships and other finance sources. (c) Promote enabling environment for Foreign Direct Investment and private sector involvement. (**also applies to TDCs**).

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (General Assembly Resolutions)

- **A/RES/74/15 (OP 52, 57, 58, 60, 61):** (a) Assist LLDCs graduating from LDC status through support to national transition strategy + provide predictable country-specific transition support for fixed period (**Action by UN system, others**). (b) Support: tax administration reform; broadening of tax base; strengthening of domestic capital markets (**Action by: international partners**). (c) Strengthen support to LLDCs taking into account all sources (**Action by: development partners**). (d) Provide aid for trade to LLDCs consistent with WTO guidelines to: (i) Build LLDC capacity on trade policy formulation; (ii) Implement trade facilitation measures; (iii) Develop trade-related infrastructure; (iv) Advance positions in global and regional value chains. (**Action by: development partners**). (e) Support South-South and triangular cooperation in line with modalities of cooperation (**Action by: developing + developed countries**).
- **A/RES/73/243 (OP 36, 39, 40, 44, 58), A/RES/72/232 (OP 35, 38, 39, 43, 49), A/RES/71/239 (OP 32, 34, 35, 42)** (a) Facilitate FDI flows to LLDCs to accelerate development and poverty reduction through employment, transfer of managerial and technological know-how (on mutually agreed terms) and non-debt creating flows of capital (**also applies to TDCs**). (**Action by: Member States**) (b) Support VPoA implementation in mutually agreed areas cooperation within framework of South-South cooperation (**Action by: developing countries**). (c) Implement Aid for Trade initiative to address special needs of LLDCs, including (i) capacity-building for trade policy formulation; (ii) participation in trade negotiations; (iii) implementation of trade facilitation measures; (iv) diversification of export products (**Action by: development partners**). (d) Enhance support for VPoA implementation (in line with resolution 71/243 on QCPR) and integrate and mainstream it into operational activities for development (**Action by: UN development system**). (e) Contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support activities undertaken by OHRLLS to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the VPoA (**Action by: Governments, IGOs, NGOs, major groups, other donors**).

Recommended actions by LLDCs (VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

- **VPoA-MTR-Africa:** (a) Enhance means of implementation for African LLDCs through furthering/ensuring: (i) National awareness on VPoA among all stakeholders; (ii) Political commitment and championship of commitments and obligations; (iii) Involvement of multiple stakeholders; (iv) Mainstreaming technical and capacity building assistance in country's sectoral and national development agendas; (v) Inclusion of VPoA priority areas in Ministries' Annual Work plans and Budgets to assist in implementation and monitoring; (vi) Ratification of WTO-TFA and other VPoA related agreements; (vii) implementation plans are adequately financed.
- **VPoA-MTR-Latin America:** (a) Further efficiency in public spending + better coordination and strategies at regional level to attract resources.

Recommended actions requiring development partners support (VPoA-MTR, UN-OHRLLS)

- **A/74/113:** (a) Further access to blended finance; risk mitigation instruments; pooled funding structures; loans (concessional, non-concessional) (**Action through: international development cooperation**); (b) Provide technical assistance and capacity-building to prevent and combat illicit financial flow and access available financing.
- **VPoA-MTR-Africa:** (a) Further private sector support to LLDCs: (i) further local and regional entrepreneurship; (ii) attract investment from companies in developed countries; (iii) attract increased and diversified FDI.
- **VPoA-MTR-Eurasia:** (a) Access financial/technical resources from multilateral initiatives (ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, New Development Bank, World Bank's Global Infrastructure Facility, SAARC Development Fund).
- **OHRLLS:** (a) Fulfil existing ODA commitments to LLDCs and enhance ODA to LLDCs; (b) Further South-South and triangular cooperation to further: (i) growth and development of LLDCs and TDCs; (ii) share best practices; (iii) human and productive capacity-building; (iv) financial and technical assistance; (v) technological transfer. (**Action by: developing countries**); (c) Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support for VPoA implementation [**Action by: UN system, relevant international/regional/sub-regional organizations (e.g. World Bank, WTO, WCO, CFC), regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations**]; (d) Provide dedicated infrastructure funding for LLDCs (**Action by: multilateral and regional development banks**).

Source: JIU desk research of publicly available documentation from UN-OHRLLS and other sources.

Item 3

Measures (ongoing, planned, feasible) by UN system entities to address 26 General Assembly directives on the VPoA

VPoA Priority 1: Fundamental Transit Policy Issues		
(1) Provide policy, analytical and technical support towards the development, functioning and management of corridors.		
Entity	Type	Action
ICAO	Ongoing	Supports Member States in developing harmonized regulatory framework in air transport and infrastructure development. Facilitation of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) on “Entry and departure of aircraft” and “Communicable disease outbreak national aviation plan.” Provide support to States in the management of corridors when facing an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern. In light of COVID-19, ICAO Council’s Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) adopted the COVID-19 report and guidelines to facilitate global convergence, mutual recognition and harmonization of aviation COVID-19 related measures and support the restart and recovery of global air travel in a safe, secure and sustainable way.
ITU	Ongoing	Provide guidelines on telecommunication regulations (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 1</i>).
UN-ECA	Planned	Proposed initiative on Digitalization of transit corridors: use of state-of-the-art technology in managing transit corridor asset (regional transport corridors).
UN-ECE	Ongoing	(a) Accelerated implementation of the exchange platform for International Road Transports (eTIR International System) which ensures contactless and paperless border crossing operations and use of electronic consignment note for road transport (eCMR) allowing electronic tracking and tracing of goods and vehicles; (b) Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) corridor operationalization efforts; (c) Support to the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) through the maintenance of the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG), an online platform for simplifying and digitalizing cross-border trade and development of training materials on WTO TFA article 10.1 on formalities and documentary requirements, and article 10.3 on use of international standards.
UN-ECLAC	Ongoing	Establish a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators for inland transport corridors used by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay for their exports and the main challenges for the international navigation of these rivers.
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Study project on commercialization of railway corridor among Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Finalizing a “Report on best practices for effective transit transport corridor development and management” – to be used for evidence-based advocacy and disseminated to LLDCs. Advocating for collaboration between Governments and organizations in regions with LLDCs to keep cross-border transport corridors and regional transport networks open, while protecting public health during COVID-19.
	Planned	Expert group meeting on policies and solutions for enhancing corridors, transport connectivity, transit in 2021; Preparation of an analytical report which will be peer reviewed at the expert group meeting.
	Feasible	Work closely with LLDCs, transit countries and corridor management institutions to improve functioning and management for seamless connectivity.
UNCTAD	Ongoing	(a) Regional Study and Transit Transport Corridor Management Mechanism for “Commercialization of the Trans-Saharan Road Corridor”; (b) Support to the NY and Geneva based LLDC groups on transit and trade facilitation; (c) Transit coordinator training; (d) National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC) capacity building (<i>b, c and d also noted as planned for Directive 1</i>).
	Planned	(a) Support LLDCs in enhancing sustainable transport and logistics systems for trade development and regional integration through: (i) assessing the sustainability performance (economic, social and environmental) of freight transport and logistics sector and building capacities to design, develop and implement tailored sustainable freight transport strategies; (ii) promoting institutional development of transport corridors and enhancing their sustainable performance; (iii) strengthening institutional and human capacities to develop and implement Public-Private Partnerships programme/projects for transport infrastructure and logistics development. Activities will consider the impact of COVID-19 and adjust to the post-COVID-19 environment. (b) Enhance efficiency and sustainable development of economic corridors in Mongolia for trade and regional integration.

	Feasible	Enhance sustainability and management performance of corridors; cross-border training on transit to enhance collaboration.
UNWTO	Ongoing	Monitoring and evaluating visa facilitation measures.
WFP	Ongoing	Analytical and technical support towards development, functioning and management of corridors.
(2) Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to LLDCs vis-a-vis accession to and ratification and implementation of regional and international agreements (e.g. WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement) and for effective implementation of provisions of articles on release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities on importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation.		
Entity	Type	Action
ICAO	Ongoing	Adopted the Long-term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization, where Member States actively pursue continual liberalization of international air transport to the benefit of all stakeholders and the economy, while ensuring safety, security and the principle of fair and equal opportunity. Provides tools to enhance and encourage transparency of the air transport regulatory framework, including ICAO aeronautical charges, ICAO on-line Compendium of Competition Policies and Practices, and a database on World's Air Services Agreements. Facilitates States' air services negotiations through the annual ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN) and provides principles on consumer protection and policies on taxation. Develops guidance material on air cargo services, conducts studies on aircraft leasing, business and general aviation services. Helps States and Regional Economic Commissions implement the Single African Air Transport Market.
ITC	Ongoing	Providing technical assistance on WTO accession; assisting countries implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; analysing non-tariff barriers; supporting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area by providing capacity building and advisory services.
	Planned	Supporting LLDCs who have expressed their intention to become a WTO member.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support to the Kyrgyz Republic to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) including the category C provisions. In addition, support to implement the WTO TFA through the maintenance of the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG), an online platform for simplifying and digitalizing cross-border trade and development of training materials on WTO TFA Article 10.1 on formalities and documentary requirements, Article 10.3 on use of international standards, and Article 23.2 on national trade facilitation committees.
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Support to Lao People's Democratic Republic for accession to Organization for Cooperation of Railways.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Report on enhancing trade and trade facilitation for increased diversification and structural economic transformation of LLDCs which highlights technical assistance and capacity building support to LLDCs.
	Planned	Organize an expert group meeting with representatives from LLDCs on enhancing trade and trade facilitation for increased diversification and structural economic transformation of LLDCs to build their capacities.
UNAIDS	Ongoing	Support to regional free trade agreements e.g. West and Central Africa through the African Union.
UNCTAD	Feasible	Support LLDCs, in collaboration with transit partner countries, to implement trade facilitation reforms, particularly the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement through: (i) implementing trade facilitation reforms, transit measures and relevant international instruments; (ii) operationalizing and supporting National Trade Facilitation Committees to coordinate and monitor trade facilitation implementation in a Public-Private-Partnership; (iii) Facilitating the establishment of Regional Trade Facilitation Bodies and strategies to focus on common approaches to cross-border trade and transit; (iv) Developing national and Regional Trade Information Portals to boost transparency and efficiency in cross border trade procedures; (v) Preparing coordinated response guidelines for cross border trade in crisis and emergency situations such as COVID-19; (vi) Working with LLDC groups in UN and WTO etc. to promote the special needs of LLDCs.
UNDP	Feasible	Collaboration with Deutsche Post DHL Group and other stakeholders in trade facilitation through UNDP's COVID-19 private sector facility for technical assistance to LLDCs to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and to enhance the business environment for small and medium sized enterprises (<i>also noted as feasible for Directives 10 and 11</i>).

Priority 2A: Transport infrastructure

(3) Develop regionally integrated and financially and environmentally sustainable climate and disaster resilient transport infrastructure.		
Entity	Type	Action

ICAO	Ongoing	Standard-setting, oversight, capacity building and assistance activities related to international civil aviation.
ITU	Ongoing	E-waste policies and disaster management (emergency telecommunications guidelines on national emergency telecommunications plans).
UN-DESA	Ongoing	Through UNCRD, UN-DESA provides capacity building and advisory services to LLDCs on implementing environmentally sustainable transport (EST) policies in line with the 2030 Agenda.
UN-ECA	Planned	Proposed event on enhancing nationally determined contributions to climate action in LLDCs in Africa.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support to Euro-Asian Transport Links operationalization efforts; Work of Groups of Experts on Benchmarking of Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs and on Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Transport Networks; Implementation of infrastructure agreements, particularly European Agreement on: Main International Traffic Arteries, Main International Railway Lines, Important Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations, and Main Inland Waterways of International Importance; Implementation of Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Training session for policymakers of Ministries of Transport in LLDCs on promoting transport infrastructure connectivity and development of resilient transport infrastructure.
	Planned	UN-OHRLLS will select (with partners) two LLDCs to work closely with to prepare bankable projects to improve transport connectivity, promote climate resilient infrastructure and the 2030 Agenda.
	Feasible	Advocate for dedicated infrastructure funding for LLDCs, special instruments and vehicles to help LLDCs de-risk investments and attract new finances, including through blended finances.
UNCTAD	Planned	Assess the sustainability performance (economic, social and environmental) of freight transport and logistics sector; build capacities to design, develop and implement tailored sustainable freight transport strategies (activities to be implemented will take into account the impact of COVID-19 and adjust to the post-COVID19 environment); Support implementation of sustainable freight transport strategy for Northern and Central corridors in East Africa.
UNOPS	Ongoing	Current related capacities for LLDCs are concentrated in Afghanistan and South Sudan (<i>also noted as ongoing for Directives 4, 5 and 6</i>).
WFP	Ongoing	Contributes to rehabilitated feeder roads, bridges, marketplaces, and storage facilities to improve physical access to markets and services.
(4) Embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans into national sustainable development strategies, strengthen domestic enabling environments, provide technical support to translate plans into concrete project pipelines and implementable individual projects.		
Entity	Type	Action
ICAO	Planned	Sharing of recently developed guidance material on National Aviation Planning Framework, with UN-OHRLLS, as guidance for LLDC policymakers to incorporate transport infrastructure projects in national development frameworks and national budget plans, to increase resource allocation for such projects.
ITU	Ongoing	Building resiliency in telecommunications networks; capacity building for strong policies and regulation; designing and implementing concrete projects.
UN-ECA	Planned	Proposed technical support and training to selected LLDCs to formulate, prioritise, mobilise resources and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects through Public Private Partnerships.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Establishment of a geographic information system (GIS)/ web-based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory. Technical support to selected LLDCs, e.g. in Central Asia based on: UNECE's Guidelines on People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) (ECE/CECI/2019/6); UNECE's draft Evaluation Methodology for Scoring People-First PPP Projects; UNECE's Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2017/4), and based on transport-specific standards, notably UNECE's Standard on Public-Private Partnerships in Roads (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2018/8) and UNECE's Standard on Public-Private Partnerships in Railways (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2018/6).
UN-ECLAC	Ongoing	Development of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators in Paraguay.
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Developing a national strategy for sustainable freight transport for a target LLDC.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Training session of policymakers from Ministries of Transport of LLDCs on how to embed transport infrastructure investment plans into national development plans.
	Feasible	Direct work with LLDCs, transit countries, UN Resident Coordinators and UN County Teams on above-mentioned issue.

UNWTO	Ongoing	Technical cooperation activities, including events and conferences. <i>(also noted as: ongoing for Directives 12 and 21; planned for Directives 17, 18; and feasible for Directives 6, 9, 13, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 25).</i>
(5) Address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure by completing missing links.		
UN-ECA	Planned	African LLDC dialogue on greater coherence in implementing the VPoA priorities, including through trade liberalisation within the African Continental Free Trade Area.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support to Euro-Asian Transport Links corridor operationalization efforts.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating (through statements and meetings) for development partners, LLDCs and transit countries to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure by completing missing links.
	Planned	Organize a Ministerial meeting on trade with the Government of Kazakhstan and a Ministerial meeting on transport with the Government of Turkmenistan to encourage development partners, LLDCs and transit countries to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure.
	Feasible	Direct work with LLDCs, transit countries, Resident Coordinators, and UN Country Teams on above-mentioned issue.
UNCTAD	Planned	Public Private Partnerships to support integrated, sustainable climate- and disaster-resilient transport infrastructure development for LLDCs <i>(also noted as feasible for Directive 4).</i>
(6) Forge international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects; deploy international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development the maintenance of infrastructure; strengthen role of private sector.		
ITU	Ongoing	Forging partnerships among governments, the private sector, multilateral and bilateral agencies, and regional groups leading to co-financing of telecommunications projects for the benefit of LLDCs.
UN-ECA	Planned	Technical support and training to selected LLDCs to formulate, prioritise and mobilise resources and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects through Public Private Partnerships.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Technical support to strengthen the role of the private sector in transport infrastructure to selected LLDCs, e.g. in Central Asia, based on: UNECE's Guidelines on People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) (ECE/CECI/2019/6); UNECE's draft Evaluation Methodology for Scoring People-First PPP Projects; UNECE's Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2017/4), and on transport-specific standards, notably UNECE's Standard on Public-Private Partnerships in Roads (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2018/8) and UNECE's Standard on Public-Private Partnerships in Railways (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2018/6).
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating for international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects and a greater private sector role in infrastructure development.
	Planned	Organize ministerial meeting on trade (with Government of Kazakhstan) and transport (with Government of Turkmenistan), to forge international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, and an increased role for the private sector in infrastructure development.

Priority 2B: Energy & ICT infrastructure		
(7) Establish Information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, applications and services to reduce high costs for broadband and digital divide.		
Entity	Type	Action
ITU	Ongoing	Implementing projects on wireless broadband; Supporting health, agriculture and education sectors with ICT applications.
UN-ECA	Planned	Digital ID Project for roll out in African countries, including African LLDCs.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating to all stakeholders to establish ICT infrastructure, applications and services to reduce high broadband costs and the digital divide <i>(also noted as planned for Directive 7).</i>
UNAIDS	Ongoing	Development of innovative approaches to ICT infrastructure.
UNDP	Ongoing	Part of the Broadband Commission and the system-wide coordination mechanism - UN Group of the Information Society/World Summit on the Information Society (UNGIS/WSIS) Forum.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Promotes and supports the adoption of advanced digital production technological breakthroughs in industrial production and manufacturing sectors in LLDCs.

	Planned	Continue ongoing projects and develop new ones, in cooperation with ITU, based on the UNIDO-ITU joint-declaration to support the development of innovative policies, actions, standards and technologies.
(8) Enhance participation and integration into e-commerce through facilitating e-commerce development policies, addressing barriers to digital economy development, addressing gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks and developing digital skills.		
ITC	Ongoing	Building capacities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to connect to international markets through e-commerce; Supporting the development of e-commerce platforms.
ITU	Ongoing	Supports countries in strengthening ICT policies, legal and regulatory frameworks for affordable ICTs, and developing appropriate skills, improving access and use of ICTs <i>(also noted as planned for Directive 8)</i> .
UN-ECA	Ongoing	Participation in negotiations on and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area <i>(also noted as ongoing for Directives 9, 10, 17 and 22)</i> .
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating to all stakeholders to enhance participation and integration into e-commerce through facilitating e-commerce development policies, addressing barriers to digital economy development, addressing gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks and developing digital skills.
	Planned	A study to identify the gaps and challenges of LLDCs in using e-commerce and recommendations for LLDCs on the increased use of e-commerce for integration into global markets.
	Feasible	Provide support to LLDCs on their negotiations on e-commerce under the WTO and regional platforms.
UNCTAD	Ongoing	e-Trade Readiness assessments of LLDCs; e-commerce strategies for Botswana and Rwanda.
	Planned	Address requests from Eswatini, Mongolia, Zimbabwe and Paraguay on e-trade / e-commerce strategy.
UNDP	Ongoing	Support to Uganda to expand the uptake of e-commerce by local vendors and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
UNIDO	Ongoing	As part of the e-Trade for all initiative, developed the “E-Commerce: A facilitating guide for small and medium-sized enterprises” online course. Implements projects to promote the development of digital skills.
	Planned	Continue ongoing projects and develop new ones, as relevant, and in cooperation with UNCTAD.
WFP	Ongoing	Contributes to the development of e-commerce.

Priority 3A: International trade		
(9) Formulate and implement national export strategies and trade and industrial policies for diversifying export structure to add value to exports and expand participation in sustainable regional and global value chains.		
Entity	Type	Action
ITC	Ongoing	Supporting the development of national export strategies and National Trade Policies (e.g. Afghanistan).
	Planned	Supporting the development and implementation of national export strategies and National Trade Policies (e.g. Afghanistan).
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Develops trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards and guidelines to increase competitiveness in international trade; UNECE Studies on Procedural and Regulatory Barriers to Trade includes policy recommendations supporting the expansion of international trade and exports; Supports LLDCs to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and accede to WTO. Support, through analytical work and experience sharing, to countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to implement the SPECA Principles on Sustainable Trade, adopted as part of the Ashgabat initiative (2019 SPECA Governing Council).
	Planned	Trade facilitation and data sharing activities; Implementation of the Ashgabat Initiative and the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Trade Facilitation Strategy; New activities on data sharing and non-tariff measures in light of COVID-19.
	Feasible	Foster LLDCs integration into sustainable textiles and footwear value chains, by supporting implementation of UNECE/UN-CEFACT Recommendation n°46: Enhancing Traceability and Transparency of Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector; the Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector, and respective information sharing standards

		(adopted at the 27th UN/CEFACT Plenary, April 2021). Launch of a block-chain enabled pilot project for ESG-traceability of cotton (demand-driven; upon request).
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Improving the capacity of LLDCs to negotiate trade agreements for regional integration; Supporting LLDCs estimate the impact of LDC graduation on trade; Enhancing analytical capacities of trade policymakers (including those in LLDCs) to channel trade into sustainable development.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Report on enhancing trade and trade facilitation for increased diversification and structural economic transformation of LLDCs for recommendations and solutions on increased diversification in LLDCs.
	Planned	Expert group meeting with representatives from LLDCs on enhancing trade and trade facilitation to build capacities and identify areas they need to work on.
	Feasible	Identify industrial policies for diversifying export structure to add value to exports and expand participation in sustainable regional and global value chains in LLDCs.
UNCTAD	Feasible	Identify new sectors of potential exports to accelerate structural economic transformation; Exploratory work focused on nutraceuticals as potential areas for export diversification.
UNDP	Ongoing	UNDP (through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs) supports LLDCs to inform and formulate trade-policy and strategies (Bhutan, South Sudan) and strengthen trade-related institutions (Lesotho, South Sudan).
UNEP	Ongoing	UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub support LLDCs (and others) through research, capacity-building and policy advisory services across four areas: trade in environmentally sound technologies; governance, trade and environment nexus; green markets and global value chains; and reducing the footprint of trade.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Capacity-building activities and policy advisory services on regional and global value chains; Implements projects to strengthen institutional and national capacities related to Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality for increased international and national market access.
	Planned	Continue ongoing projects and develop new ones, as relevant (<i>also noted as planned for Directives 14, 17, 19, 21 and 25</i>).
UNOPS	Ongoing	Grant management for the Enhanced Integrated Framework in multiple countries.

Priority 3B: Trade facilitation		
(10) Reduce “before the border” trade costs by improving transport networks and customs procedures and apply tech-driven ICT solutions to expedite international trade.		
Entity	Type	Action
FAO	Planned	Two International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Advanced Training Courses in 2020/21 on Phytosanitary Measures in China for the Belt and Road Initiative countries from Southeast Asia, Pacific and Latin America; Development of a relevant value chain improvement program to contribution to job creation, nutrition enhancement, and promotion of food security in a sustainable way in LLDCs.
ICAO	Ongoing	ICAO Traveller Identification Programme and the ICAO Public Key Directory helps Member States maximize the efficiency of their border clearance formalities, achieve and maintain high-quality security and effective law enforcement. ICAO develops measures, guidance and policies to implement the Model National Air Transport Facilitation Programme.
ITC	Ongoing	Implementation of articles of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement including: Article 1 in 11 LLDCs; Article 3 (Advance Rulings) in Niger; (c) Article 7.7 (Authorized Operator) in Tajikistan; and Article 10.1 (Review of formalities) in Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Mali, Burkina Faso. Implementation of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa simplified trade regime at the border of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Support to the implementation of selected Trade Facilitation Agreement obligations in Nepal. Support to the implementation of additional trade facilitation reforms to address obstacles to trade in five Central Asian countries, based on the specific needs and priorities of the countries.
ITU	Ongoing	Ensure that appropriate ICT infrastructure, applications and services are in use (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 10</i>).
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Development of trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards through the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business. Support to the Kyrgyz Republic to develop the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2021-2025, a national strategic document including a vision, goals and activities; develop educational modules on trade facilitation by the Kyrgyz Economic University and establish the Trade Information Portal in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC).
	Planned	Development of multiple recommendations, guidelines and projects on transformative digital technologies (blockchain, artificial intelligence, internet of things); Trade facilitation and data

		sharing activities in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and other LLDCs; Implementation of the Ashgabat Initiative and the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy; New activities on data sharing and non-tariff measures in light of COVID-19.
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Support to legal and technical readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade (online/on-demand).
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating to all stakeholders (development partners, LLDCs, transit countries, UN system, international and regional organizations) on issues related to Directive 10 (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 10</i>).
	Feasible	Directly work with LLDCs, transit countries, UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams on issues related to Directive 10.
UNCTAD	Ongoing	Technical assistance and capacity building for trade facilitation reform implementation, particularly WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and regional trade facilitation agreements; Empowering national Trade Facilitation Committees and Regional Organizations; Advisory services; Analytical work (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 10</i>).
	Feasible	Preparation for future crisis or emergency situations.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Implementing projects on LLDCs Quality Infrastructure system in African and South Asian LDCs.
(11) Determine and notify on technical assistance needs regarding implementation of 60 per cent of provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.		
ITC	Ongoing	Raising awareness on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; Supporting Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso develop detailed project proposals to request technical and financial assistance for the implementation of Category C measures; Supporting trade related technical assistance notification finalized in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Supporting LLDCs strengthen the capacity of the national trade facilitation stakeholders to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement provisions including articles: 1.2 on information available through internet; 10.1 on formalities and documentary requirements; 10.3 on use of international standards; 10.4 on single window; and 23.2 on national trade facilitation committees (to continue in 2021).
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Supporting LLDCs party to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific to fully and digitally implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating to LLDCs and transit countries to determine and notify their technical assistance needs (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 11</i>).
	Feasible	National advocacy to LLDCs and transit countries to determine and notify technical assistance needs.
(12) Strengthen trade financing for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and promote trade finance facilitation programmes.		
ITC	Ongoing	Connecting micro, small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurs particularly women, to finance opportunities.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating to development partners, relevant international and regional organizations and the private sector, to strengthen trade financing for micro, small and medium sized enterprises and promote trade finance facilitation programmes (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 12</i>).
	Planned	Organizing a private forum where issues related to Directive 12 will be raised.

Priority 4: Regional integration & cooperation		
(13) Support LLDCs and Transit Developing Countries in leveraging opportunities provided by regional initiatives and integration.		
Entity	Type	Action
ICAO	Ongoing	Providing assistance for States and Regional Economic Commissions to implement the Single African Air Transport Market.
ITC	Ongoing	Capacity building and advisory services for private and public sector actors to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area and other regional integration efforts in ASEAN and Central Asia; Promoting intra-regional trade in Asia and Africa; Supporting South-South trade and investment including: Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA), West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), ASEAN and initiatives in Central Asia.
ITU	Ongoing	Implementing regional initiatives that benefit multiple countries and lead to regional integration e.g. common agreements on roaming and spectrum issues (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 13</i>).
UN-ECA	Planned	Convening of an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) anchored VPoA forum on leveraging the implementation of the AfCFTA to advance the achievement of VPoA priorities.

UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support for the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) process; Follow up project to the E262 SPECA project approved in May 2020 for 2020 and 2021 (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 13</i>).
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating to LLDCs and transit countries to leverage opportunities provided by regional initiatives.
	Planned	Continue advocacy work; Organize a multi-stakeholder forum to promote regional initiatives and encourage LLDCs and transit countries to capitalize on such initiatives.
	Feasible	Review the existing regional initiatives and integration, identify ways in which LLDCs could utilize the opportunities to their advantage, and share widely with the LLDCs.
UNAIDS	Ongoing	Support to Regional Economic Commissions and regional economic fora for free travel of goods and commodities.
UNFPA	Ongoing	Promoting South-South cooperation to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health; Supporting the mobilisation of resources through South-South cooperation.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation		
(14) Improve legal and regulatory environment for private sector and businesses, particularly MSMEs, build institutional and human capacities, develop policies, infrastructure, national and regional centres for science, technology and innovation.		
Entity	Type	Action
ITC	Ongoing	(a) Building capacities of policymakers to create a conducive business environment for trade and investment; (b) Building the capacity of and providing advisory support to the private sector to inform: trade policy formulation processes, domestic trade and investment related regulatory reforms processes (for export competitiveness purposes) and trade negotiations (WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement) [<i>latter portion (b) also noted as ongoing for Directive 22</i>].
UN-ECA	Planned	Digital Identification Document Project for roll out in African countries, including African LLDC.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support for the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development: UN Development Account project 2023N “Strengthening innovation policies for SPECA countries in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, 2020-2023, includes a science, technology and innovation (STI) gap analysis of the SPECA countries with the aim of producing an Action Plan with concrete proposals for cooperation between the SPECA countries. UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Reviews have been completed for Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and are planned for Armenia (second stage), Moldova and Uzbekistan.
UN-ECLAC	Planned	Implement a national policy dialogue meeting in Paraguay to validate the findings of national connectivity reports with national and sub-regional stakeholders, and a capacity building workshop to provide substantive support in the integration of recommendations into national policies.
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Enhancing participation of LLDCs in the annual Asia-Pacific Business Forum and multi-stakeholder forums on promoting responsible business conduct; Supporting private sector engagement in sustainable agricultural mechanization through regional-level networking and human capacity building through the ESCAP Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.
	Planned	Comprehensive national and regional level training for investment policymakers and Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) officials, on promotion, attraction and facilitation of foreign direct investment for sustainable development, on demand through national workshops and the Asia-Pacific foreign direct investment Policy Network.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy and capacity building efforts on topics related to Directive 14.
	Planned	Organizing a private sector forum to address issues related to Directive 14.
	Feasible	Analytical work on how LLDCs can undertake capacity building activities to improve their business and investment environment.
UNCTAD	Ongoing	Zambia Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Review.
	Planned	Botswana Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Review.
	Feasible	Regional capacity building on science, technology, and innovation (STI) for SDGs.
UNDP	Ongoing	Programme of private sector support and engagement, which includes two areas of relevance for small and medium sized enterprises: unlocking private finance for the SDGs and aligning business strategies and operations for the SDGs (including business accelerators and incubators for the SDGs).
UNEP	Ongoing	Supports countries in Africa (including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda) to achieve sustainable development through the Switch Africa Green programme providing policy support; green business development (grants to private sector initiatives); and a networking facility.

UNIDO	Ongoing	Programme for Country Partnership in LLDCs (Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Zambia); Supports public private partnership in LLDCs via capacity-building; Supports the development of agro-industries in urban and rural areas; Promotes food safety in the processing of agro-food commodities and its regulatory environment.
	Planned	Expand the Programme for Country Partnership implementation to other LLDCs.
WFP	Ongoing	Building institutional and human capacities; Developing rural infrastructures (regional centres for science, technology and innovation).
WIPO	Ongoing	a) Assistance for formulating and implementing National Intellectual property and innovation policies and strategies; b) Capacity building activities on promoting innovation and creativity; c) Implementing the Project on Transfer of Appropriate Technologies for LDCs; and d) Establishment of WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centres.
	Planned	Provision of capacity building on innovation and transfer of technology for LLDCs.
(15) Utilize technology and research funds established by partners to: (i) support LLDCs in technology adaptation and use; (ii) enhance domestic and international investments in research and development in LLDCs.		
ITU	Ongoing	Support research and development of ICT skills; Embracing emerging technologies (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 15</i>).
UN-ESCAP	Planned	Support to regional initiatives for sustainable and climate-smart agricultural mechanization technologies and practices (by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization) including a pilot project on integrated management of straw residue to be launched in Nepal.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating for establishment of technology/research funds to: support LLDCs in technology adaptation and use and enhance investments in research and development in LLDCs
	Planned	Analytical research on how LLDCs can further enhance investments into research and development.
WIPO	Ongoing	Implementing the Project on Transfer of Appropriate Technologies for LDCs (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 15</i>).
(16) Make voluntary contributions to the budget of the International Think Tank for LLDCs		
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocate for development partners to support the budget of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 16</i>).
(17) Support LLDCs to increase the share of services in their economies and exports through enabling policies to: (i) enhance productivity (ii) reduce the cost of doing business and (iii) promote job creation.		
ITC	Ongoing	Supporting the export of Information Technology enabled services for the diversification of export products; Capacity building and advisory support to the private sector to inform: investment-related trade policy formulation and implementation process; domestic services and investment-related regulatory reforms and implementation process; services-related trade negotiations and the implementation of commitments stemming from these fora (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 17</i>).
UN-ECA	Ongoing	Research for the report “Assessing Regional Integration in Africa - ARIA IX”.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy and analytical work on issues related to Directive 17 (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 17</i>).
	Feasible	Collaborative research and capacity building to work directly with LLDCs on Directive 17 related issues.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Advisory services within the formulation of policies and strategies related to job creation, small and medium sized enterprises, industry, etc.
WFP	Ongoing	Contributes to enhancing productivity and promoting job creation.
(18) Undertake measures to negate impact of geographical disadvantages and external shocks; promote socio-economic development by an enabling international economic environment to support LLDCs national development efforts.		
UN-ECA	Planned	Propose policy dialogues and country compacts with LLDCs on energy and investment planning.
UN-ESCAP	Planned	National level training workshops and regional networks of small and medium-sized enterprises, policymakers and experts, to support countries to develop and strengthen the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and enhance their integration into regional and global value chains.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy to support the sustainable development of LLDCs and build their resilience to external shocks; Support to intergovernmental process support (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 18</i>).
	Feasible	Analytical work on the cost of landlocked-ness and the required actions.
UNCTAD	Feasible	Foster productive capacities and structural transformation through: (i) developing a productive capacities index and building institutional and human resources capacities to use the index in policymaking; (ii) preparing a policy tool (manual) on how to develop new productive capacities while maintaining and utilizing existing ones for structural economic transformation; (iii) formulating and implementing coherent industrial, trade and other sectoral policies for fostering

		productive capacities; and (iv) facilitating LLDC participation in the 15 th session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.
UNFPA	Ongoing	Respective country programmes in LLDCs are focused on harnessing the demographic dividend.
(19) Support LLDCs to address the challenges of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods and droughts.		
UN-ECA	Planned	Enhancing policy coherence and investment opportunities for the SDGs through an integrated climate, land, energy and water systems approach in LLDCs in Africa.
UN-ESCAP	Planned	Developing an online tool to enhance greenhouse gas emissions monitoring and reporting with UNFCCC, UNEP, IGCE and UN-ESCAP.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating for increased support towards the special needs of LLDCs on issues related to Directive 19; Advocating for LLDCs access to climate change resources; Support to LLDCs in intergovernmental processes on issues related to Directive 19.
	Planned	Organize a side-event on increased action to combat desertification in LLDCs at: the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), and the 26 th UN Climate Change Conference; Organize a high-level side event to champion National Adaptation Plans.
	Feasible	Advocate for special resources towards the building the resilience of LLDCs.
UNAIDS	Ongoing	Creation of national and regional disaster-strategy frameworks.
UNEP	Ongoing	Subprogrammes related to climate change, resilience, ecosystem management and resource efficiency, encompass projects/programmes that strengthen resilience to climate shocks and/or build green and resilient economies; Global Adaptation Network facilitates the exchange of knowledge on climate change adaptation, resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate shocks between countries including LLDCs.
UNESCO	Feasible	Strengthening the national capacities of four countries of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, including Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, in managing geological resources, geohazards risks, and strengthening their response to water security challenges.
UNFPA	Ongoing	Integrating universal access to sexual and reproductive health in the context of disaster preparedness and response to humanitarian situations; Providing life-saving support to address sexual and gender-based violence; Supporting LLDCs to conduct risk identification and mitigation efforts.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Promote industrial resource efficiency; Assist LLDCs to achieve the objectives of and comply with Multilateral Environmental Agreements; Support LLDCs to reduce the release of industrial pollutants; Support projects under the Montreal Protocol and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
WFP	Ongoing	Supports LLDCs to address related to Directive 19.

Priority 6: Means of implementation		
(20) Assist LLDCs graduating from Least Developed Country status through support to national transition strategy and provide predictable country-specific transition support for a fixed period.		
Entity	Type	Action
ITC	Ongoing	Raise awareness of the private sector and policymakers on trade related implications of the graduation process.
ITU	Ongoing	Concentrated assistance for the specified period of smooth transition.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Coordinating the inter-agency group on smooth transition for graduating countries; Advocating for development partners to provide support towards smooth transition.
	Planned	Capacity building workshops on graduation and assistance in drafting the smooth transition strategy.
UNDP	Ongoing	Support graduating LDCs on the formulation and implementation of smooth transition strategies and mainstreaming graduation implications in development planning mechanisms.
UNFPA	Ongoing	Supporting LLDCs to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health.; Mapping and implementing actions needed to harness the demographic dividend.
WIPO	Feasible	Technical assistance to LLDCs graduating from LDC status to implement objectives of their national transition strategies upon request.
(21) Provide capacity-building support to strengthen national statistical systems of LLDCs to enhance ability to capture and generate data and undertake statistical analysis, vis-a-vis monitoring and evaluating VPoA objectives.		
ITU	Ongoing	Capacity building and training to designated institutions and persons in data collection, processing, and reporting (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 21</i>).
UN-DESA	Ongoing	Regional workshops to facilitate regional cooperation and experience sharing on renewable energy and energy efficiency; Capacity building for measuring and compiling energy statistics and understanding options related to energy sources, products available, advantages and disadvantages

		(participants include eight LLDCs); Provide information on SDG indicators and LLDC aggregates related to renewable energy and energy efficiency to UN-OHRLLS; Regional meetings (including five Asian LLDCs) to support statistical offices on general operations, management issues, and use of new data technologies (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 21</i>). The Development Account 10 th tranche Programme on Statistics and Data activities include country advisory missions, national training seminars, development of guidelines, e-learning courses, and stocktaking events at the regional or inter-regional level, which promote exchanges among countries of challenges, good practices and lessons learnt. All LLDCs have participated in a Development Account 10 activity; The UK Department for International Development project on SDG Monitoring strengthens the capacity of countries (including ten LLDCs) in the compilation and use of indicators, development of national strategies for monitoring SDGs, creation or upgrading of national data and metadata platforms of Goal indicators and engages users of the SDG data.
UN-ESCAP	Ongoing	Enhance the capacity of developing economies in Central Asia on the effective use of space applications for drought monitoring and early warning through the Regional Drought Mechanism (2019-2021); Strengthen institutional capacity to integrate geospatial and statistical data with a focus on land accounts in Central Asia (2019-2021).
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocating in areas related to Directive 21 through statements, bilateral meetings, presentations, declarations, decisions and recommendations of meetings and reports.
	Planned	Partnering with regional organizations to collect data on the smooth running of corridors.
	Feasible	Development Account Project with regional commissions to collect data on the smooth running of corridors.
UNFPA	Ongoing	Supporting the generation of population data; Mainstreaming demographic intelligence to improve the responsiveness, targeting and impact of development policies, programmes and advocacy.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Analytical tools developed: (a) Industrial Analytics Platform; (b) International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics; and (c) statistical databases (Industrial Statistics Database, Mining & Utilities Statistics Database, Manufacturing Value Added Database, Industrial Demand-Supply Balance Database).
WFP	Ongoing	Capacity-building support to LLDCs in areas related to Directive 21.
(22) Provide aid for trade to LLDCs consistent with WTO guidelines to: (i) build LLDC capacity on trade policy formulation; (ii) implement trade facilitation measures; (iii) develop trade-related infrastructure; (iv) advance positions in global and regional value chains; (v) further participation in trade negotiations; and (vi) further diversification of export products.		
ITC	Ongoing	Building capacity of policymakers to develop export strategies; Supporting trade in services for the diversification of export products.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support, through analytical work and experience sharing, countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to implement the SPECA Principles on Sustainable Trade, adopted as part of the Ashgabat initiative (2019 SPECA Governing Council), including principle 4 on “export diversification and value addition”. Support export diversification and advancement in value chain integration, through UNECE’s agricultural quality standards, notably the first-ever international quality standard elaborated by a Central Asian country, Uzbekistan, with the support of the Central Asia Working Group on Quality Standards (UNECE Standard DDP-30 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of Dried Melons, adopted 2019).
	Feasible	Foster LLDCs integration into sustainable textiles and footwear value chains, by supporting implementation of UNECE/UN-CEFACT Recommendation n°46: Enhancing Traceability and Transparency of Sustainable Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector, the Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector, and respective information sharing standards (adopted at the 27th UN/CEFACT Plenary, April 2021). Launch of a block-chain enabled pilot project for ESG-traceability of cotton (demand-driven; upon request).
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy on issues related to Directive 22; Report of the Secretary General on implementation of VPoA; Dedicated analytical report on enhancing trade and trade facilitation for increased diversification and structural economic transformation of LLDCs; Support to LLDCs on intergovernmental processes (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 22</i>).
	Feasible	Support to LLDCs to build well informed positions for trade negotiations; Analytical work on global and regional value chains for LLDCs.
UNDP	Ongoing	Support to VPoA priorities on trade are part and parcel of aid for trade as defined by WTO guidelines.

(23) Facilitate FDI flows to LLDCs to accelerate development and poverty reduction through employment, transfer of managerial and technological know-how (on mutually agreed terms) and non-debt creating flows of capital.		
ITC	Ongoing	Supporting investment from China to Africa; Supporting participation of the private sector in the WTO Structured Discussion on Investment Facilitation; Developing investment profiles and step-by-step guides to foster investment leads; Providing advisory services to improve the business and investment environment including through addressing non-tariff measures.
UN-ECA	Planned	Conduct training on creating a conducive business environment in LLDCs to attract foreign direct investment.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy to promote foreign direct investment flows to LLDCs (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 23</i>).
	Planned	Analytical work on responding to COVID-19 and adjusting to the post-COVID-19 environment.
UNCTAD	Feasible	(i) Enhancing the beneficial participation and engagement of LLDC in the UNCTAD World Investment Forum; (ii) Targeting and facilitating foreign direct investment in sustainable development; (iii) Responding to COVID-19 and adjusting to the post-COVID-19 environment, including a note on trends and key issues regarding foreign direct investment in LLDCs.
UNDP	Ongoing	Partnerships to promote systemic change in the financial system and SDG-aligned investments in developing countries, including LLDCs; SDG investment opportunity mapping and convenings in selected countries, to make investors aware of profitable and SDG-aligned investments.
(24) Integrate and mainstream VPoA implementation into operational activities for development.		
ITU	Ongoing	Promote south-south, north-south projects, knowledge and information sharing (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 25</i>).
UN-ECLAC	Planned	Report on the impact of COVID-19 on the logistics performance of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay; Policy recommendations to improve their connectivity and logistics fluidity with transit countries post- pandemic.
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy; Report and recommendations on the status of mainstreaming the VPoA in LLDCs.
	Planned	Advocacy for mainstreaming the VPoA and 2030 Agenda; Establish national focal points in LLDCs.
	Feasible	Work directly with UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to mainstream the VPoA.
WIPO	Feasible	(a) Developing a program of activities on “WIPO Deliverables for LLDCs”, potentially including a set of thematic activities to support LLDCs to implement the VPoA; (b) Allocating additional financial and human resources, and setting up an institutional unit responsible for internal and external coordination on VPoA implementation; (c) Specifying LLDCs among other groups of recipient countries in the targets and key performance indicators for the expected results of WIPO’s biennial Program and Budget.
(25) Support VPoA implementation in mutually agreed areas for cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation.		
ITC	Ongoing	Supporting trade and investment between India and Africa.
UN-ECE	Ongoing	Support, through analytical work and experience sharing, countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to implement the SPECA Principles on Sustainable Trade, adopted as part of the Ashgabat initiative (2019 SPECA Governing Council, comprised of: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocate for the increased role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of the VPoA; Support LLDCs in their intergovernmental processes on South-South Cooperation (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 25</i>).
	Feasible	Match LLDCs with South-South partners on specific projects to advance VPoA implementation.
UNDP	Ongoing	Supports African LLDCs to develop their national South-South Cooperation architecture in the implementation of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires Plan of Action Plus 40).
UNFPA	Ongoing	Promote South-South cooperation to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health; Support the mobilisation of resources through South-South cooperation.
UNIDO	Ongoing	Facilitating technology transfer in LLDCs through its Centres for South-South Industrial Cooperation.
WFP	Ongoing	Promotes and leverages on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to support LLDCs.
(26) Contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by UN-OHRLLS to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the VPoA.		
UN-OHRLLS	Ongoing	Advocacy; Project documents to support resource mobilization efforts (<i>also noted as planned for Directive 26</i>).

Source: Corporate and follow-up questionnaire responses from JIU participating organizations.

Item 4

Measures by development partners to address General Assembly directives on the VPoA

VPoA Priority 1: Fundamental Transit Policy Issues	
AUC	Strategy and standard setting: Development of a continental strategy on access to rural and remote areas; and project to define the trans-African railway network, rules and tools for interoperability standards.
ICTD	Training: Transport diplomacy training (online and hybrid courses) for staff of ministries and national agencies of LLDCs; organization of roundtables on “Transport Diplomacy for LLDCs”; contribution to transport and COVID-19 related resolutions of the General Assembly; and co-organization of pilot multimodal caravans under the Global Transit Document with TRACECA.
IRU	Tools development and advocacy: Development of tools related to the International Road Transport (TIR) Convention and support to their use; and advocacy with LLDCs to ratify and implement the TIR Convention.
NCTTCA	Reports and studies: Preparation of Transport Observatory Reports; support to the implementation of international conventions and agreements related to transit facilitation; studies on a Transport Predictive Costs Model in corridors and on sustainability of Northern Corridor freight sub-sector (<i>planned</i>).
OSCE	Support to harmonization and data exchange: Support to the harmonization of legal and administrative regulations and private-public partnerships to increase knowledge exchange and to implement successful transit initiatives; and support to increasing the exchange of trade and transport data.
TRACECA	Development of agreements: Development of agreement on Single Transit Permit for TRACECA members; development and implementation of a single multimodal transport document and cargo delivery project using a single multimodal transport document (Global Transit Document).
WCO	Advocacy with LLDCs to conduct joint Time Release Studies along transit transport corridor; and sensitization of LLDCs to use WCO Time Release Study to monitor and evaluate transit and transport indicators.
VPoA Priority 2A: Transport Infrastructure	
ADB	Investment and advocacy: Investment in regionally integrated, high quality, sustainable transport infrastructure to close gaps and develop transport corridors; utilization of co-financing, public private partnerships and private sector financing options for transport infrastructure development.
AUC	Programmes: Development of programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (<i>also applicable for Priority 2B</i>).
NCTTCA	Advocacy and programmes: Develop Northern Corridor Green Freight Programme and push for infrastructure development and maintenance in region.
VPoA Priority 2B: Energy and ICT Infrastructure	
ADB	Financial, technical and capacity building support to LLDCs to develop and implement energy projects; and engagement with private sector to improve digital connectivity and provide low-cost internet services in underserved areas.
AUC	Strategy development: Digital Transformation Strategy of Africa (2020-2030).
SE4ALL	Advocacy: Advocating for Sustainable Energy for All, with entity strategic plan containing areas to support the achievement of VPoA actions on energy.
VPoA Priority 3A: International Trade	
ADB	Investment and capacity building support to LLDCs to integrate into value chains and participate in multilateral trade negotiations; and support to addressing non-tariff measures on a regional basis.
NCTTCA	Studies: Conduct trade and logistics surveys to map out non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and recommend solutions for their elimination.
WTO	Resource mobilization: Mobilize Aid for Trade (AFT) resources on connectivity, reducing trade costs, and supporting transit corridors.
VPoA Priority 3B: Trade Facilitation	
ADB	Technical assistance and advocacy: Promote Single Window System Development and implementation of paperless trading; offer financing, technical assistance and capacity-building to LLDCs to comply with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; support members to simplify, streamline and harmonize import, export, and customs procedures; support regional platforms in Asia, inter-agency coordination, sharing of experiences and best practices on trade facilitation (<i>also applicable for Priority 4</i>); and capacity-building support to border agencies.
AUC	Development of standards: Harmonize the norms and standards of trans-African highways networks.
ICTD	Development of documents: Elaboration of Global Transit Document.

ITTLDC	Development of agreement: Development of a model free trade agreement specifically designed for LLDCs (<i>planned</i>).
NCTCA	Projects and awareness-raising: Promote initiatives to reduce the cost of doing business in the region; strengthen Joint Border Management Committees; facilitate awareness and sensitization programmes for women and youth on cross-border trade; support efforts to simplify, streamline and harmonize customs processes and procedures.
OSCE	Development of platforms and advocacy: Establishment of a common digital trade platform to enhance coordination and address bottlenecks; support to national mechanisms with all relevant trade and logistics stakeholders; support to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
TRACECA	Development of methodology and implementation: Develop and apply a methodology for assessing the border-crossing points and a Plan of Action to eliminate the bottlenecks in border crossings; implement measures to increase the level of digitalization of transport (for the TRACECA corridor).
WCO	Guidance and capacity-building: Support customs transit; develop guidance on customs procedures in railway transportation; implement WCO Mercator Programme to support LLDCs and TDCs to implement technical measures of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; promote the use of WCO instruments and tools to foster public-private partnership (Customs- Business Partnership Guidance, Authorized Economic Operator); enhance capacity of customs administrations of LLDCs through the implementation of WCO tools (WCO Data Model, Framework of Standard on Cross-border E-Commerce, Immediate Release Guidelines).
WTO	Technical assistance: Accelerate implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement through the TFA Facility.
VPoA Priority 4: Regional Integration and Cooperation	
AfDB	Conceptual strategy: Committed to including landlocked countries in all regional integration programmes (development of infrastructure, value chains, harmonisation of transport policies and regulations, trade facilitation programmes, among others).
OSCE	Technical assistance to enhancing coordination and cooperation between and among national borders and customs control agencies.
SADC	Strategy development: Develop Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 and SADC Vision 2050.
VPoA Priority 5: Structural Economic Transformation	
ADB	Investment: Support to the development of economic corridors to land link LLDCs with the world economy; and support to transport and trade facilitation in the Greater Mekong sub-region (<i>also applicable for Priority 1</i>).
ITTLDC	Project education: Implement a capacity building project for LLDC candidates interested in acquiring their doctoral degrees (<i>planned</i>).
VPoA Priority 6: Means of Implementation	
ADB	Provision of tools: Offers finance, risk mitigation instruments, and co-financing options for LLDCs to meet their developmental needs.
ITTLDC	Advocacy: Create an annual or biannual High Level LLDC summit (<i>planned</i>).

Source: Corporate questionnaire responses from and interviews with development partners.

Item 5

VPoA related initiative successfully supported by UN system entities: outcomes achieved and output strategies

Entity	A. VPoA related initiative successfully supported by UN system
ITC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connecting women entrepreneurs in Zambia to global market through e-learning platforms and mobile applications. 2. Supporting e-commerce in Rwanda through encouraging private sector firms to take the lead in running solutions. 3. Supporting improved food safety systems in Tajikistan to further market access for agricultural products through the analysis of entire value chains to identify bottlenecks and undertaking activities to address them.
ITU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Supporting: infrastructure development through co-financing projects with the private sector; capacity-building through joint events and initiatives with academia; monitoring and evaluation through basing measurements on internationally agreed definitions, standards, and methodologies; information sharing through webinars, web dialogues, publications and websites; and LLDC participation through consultations in agenda setting.
UN-ECA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Support to 14 African LLDCs in the ratification of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. 6. Facilitation of the establishment of the African Corridor Management Alliance (ACMA) through: the undertaking of a feasibility study; serving as interim secretariat and supporting the establishment of permanent secretariat; and supporting the implementation of ACMA strategy. 7. Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through: deliberations of VPoA related issues during sensitization workshops and trainings; development of AfCFTA strategies for five LLDCs; and mainstreaming of VPoA into AfCFTA phases to ensure trading on a more equitable basis.
UN-ECE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Support to sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in select LLDCs through the development of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN). 9. Strengthening the logistics and transport competitiveness of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan through the preparation of studies on their transport situation to identify best practices, recommendations and solutions, with the engagement of local transport stakeholders understand key barriers and areas for improvements and investments. 10. Addressing the lack of funding for sustainable infrastructure development in Euro-Asian LLDCs through the development of a web-based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory to allow: governments to find data to prepare, benchmark and present transport infrastructure projects; and financial institutions to consider, analyse and compare projects from a regional/international perspective and identify those they wish to finance. 11. Support to keeping vital supply chains for LLDCs operational through the creation of an online Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19, providing real-time overview of freight border crossing limitations globally. 12. Support to sustainable agricultural mechanization in LLDCs through a need-based approach to capacity building and the strengthening of regional-level stakeholder networks to promote knowledge exchange and collaboration. 13. Equipping policymakers in three LLDCs to identify opportunities and challenges of infrastructure connectivity through workshops utilizing holistic approaches to explore synergistic opportunities across infrastructure sectors. 14. Enhancing LLDC capacity in Central Asia on the effective use of space applications for drought monitoring and early warning through the capacity building on knowledge and skills to use geospatial data. 15. Supporting cross-border paperless trade in LLDCs in the Asia-Pacific through collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators, governments and the UN Network of Experts on the subject matter. 16. Supporting LLDCs in trade intelligence/negotiations through resource mobilization and knowledge products design. 17. Enhancing analytical capacities of trade policymakers and supporting readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade through demand-driven project design and collaboration with organisations and/or target LLDCs. 18. Supporting foreign direct investment for the sustainable development of LLDCs, enhancing the integration of micro, small & medium-sized enterprises into regional and global value chains, and enhancing LLDC participation in multi-stakeholder business forums through collaboration with target countries and relevant networks. 19. Supporting transport connectivity in LLDCs in South and South-East Asia through: furthering ownership and participation by member countries; collaboration with specialised agencies and

	organisations; and the participation of private sector actors, such as freight-forwarders, in project activities.
UN-OHRLLS	<p>20. Furthering public private partnership networks in infrastructure financing in nine LLDCs through supporting the participation of business associations and sustainable business networks. (also supported by UN-ECE)</p> <p>21. Advocacy to increase ratification of WTO trade facilitation agreement through organizing ministerial meeting on trade, high-level bilateral meetings, press conferences, briefings to Member States and preparation of SG reports.</p> <p>22. Mainstreaming the VPoA in Botswana through conducting capacity building workshops for government officials.</p> <p>23. Support to the development of transit guidelines through collaboration with the World Customs Organization.</p> <p>24. Advocacy on mainstreaming the VPoA through working with UN Regional Commissions in Africa, Asia and Latin America to adopt resolutions on mainstreaming it at the national and regional levels.</p> <p>25. Supporting the elaboration and negotiation of the Inter-governmental Agreement on the Trans African Highway through high level and expert levels collaboration with the African Union Department of Infrastructure.</p>
UNAIDS	<p>26. Promotion of the Doha Declaration on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Public Health through leveraging regional economic bodies for flexible agreements and priority status for LLDC to assist with manufacture of HIV related commodities.</p> <p>27. Fostering productive capacities and structural Transformation in Rwanda through sequenced and elaborate information exchanges with national stakeholders and effective collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry.</p>
UNCTAD	<p>28. Support to Science, Technology and Innovation policy reviews in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia through capacity-building, partnerships with multiple stakeholders (donor aid agencies, national science councils/ministries, local government, private sector, non-profits) and the joint development of implementation plans.</p> <p>29. Building LDC capacity to upgrade and diversify fisheries exports through the establishment of two Regional Centres of Excellence and partnership with agencies in developing training materials and course-delivery.</p> <p>30. Support to Lao People's Democratic Republic's graduation from LDC status and Botswana's development of productive capacities index through sequenced and elaborate information exchanges with relevant national stakeholders and effective collaboration with national relevant ministries.</p> <p>31. Support to sustainable freight transport and finance through the development of a framework and training toolkits adapted to country/region/corridor needs.</p> <p>32. Capacity building of National Foreign Trade Councils through targeted and flexible training for all members.</p> <p>33. Support to the sustainable performance of transport corridors through promoting a cluster-based, multi-stakeholder approach that bundles transport infrastructure, trade logistics and business/industry services along a corridor.</p> <p>34. Support to national transit coordinators through hands-on training based on a regional training framework.</p>
UN-DESA	<p>35. Furthering environmentally sustainable transport through supporting the regular participation of five Asian LLDCs in regional intergovernmental forums, policy dialogues and training on the subject matter.</p> <p>36. Support to improved data and statistics, including for SDG monitoring, through global, regional and sub-regional cooperation and experience sharing and the engagement of relevant stakeholders at the national level.</p>
UNDP	37. Support to the sharing of south-south cooperation solutions by Azerbaijan, Nepal, and Paraguay, through the launch of a digital platform (South-South Galaxy) for knowledge sharing, capacity development, and partnership brokering to address trans-national challenges among the Global South.
UNEP	<p>38. Furtherance of environmentally sound technologies in LLDCs to support trade flows through factoring in country specific environmental, financial and technology-based needs.</p> <p>39. Supporting African LLDCs to transition to a green and inclusive economy through assistance to policymakers and micro, small & medium-sized enterprises.</p>
UNESCO	40. Supporting the reduction in the vulnerabilities of populations to floods from glacial lake outbursts in four Central Asian LLDCs, through awareness raising, capacity-building, cooperation in risk reduction, and the organization of discussion platforms between policymakers, scientists and communities.
UNFPA	41. Support to programmes on data, gender equality, health and investment in young people in LLDCs, through investing heavily in technical support, advocacy and policy development.

UNIDO	42. Support to accelerating industrialization in LLDCs through Programme Country Partnerships in four LLDCs that promote a multi-stakeholder approach in investment promotion to achieve tailored-made goals for each country.
UNOPS	<p>43. Promoting sustainable transit infrastructure development in South Sudan through engaging local contractors and the relevant government ministry in local capacity building.</p> <p>44. Improving river transport connectivity in South Sudan through: a) detailing the feasibility and cost of developing a river barge transport system (based on the assessment of ports and river conditions), with a particular focus on the costs of investment by area and location, thereby fostering evidence-based infrastructure decisions and the formulation of financially viable infrastructure projects; b) constructing a river port (in partnership with the Government of Japan and the relevant government Ministry) whereby prioritization was given to cost-saving transport solutions (natural rivers) to address infrastructural bottlenecks.</p> <p>45. Rural access improvement in Afghanistan through the construction and rehabilitation of 20 bridges and 683 kilometres of roads, with a particular focus on capacity development, to ensure the effective maintenance and operation for sustainable service provision.</p> <p>46. Support to energy access in Afghanistan through the construction of a combined solar and wind energy plant funded by the Government of Japan.</p> <p>47. Support to infrastructure development and structural economic transformation in the Central African Republic through the rehabilitation of roads and that construction of rain barriers, using a high labour-intensive approach that employed 6,400 people a day, and eventually contributed to local economic development through the provision of year-round access to markets.</p> <p>48. Furtherance of structural economic transformation in Ethiopia, through the organization of a Possibility Fora that focussed on developing the capacity of local micro, small, medium, women-owned, youth-owned and other enterprises in Ethiopia to enable them to serve as potential future suppliers for local procurement by UNOPS.</p> <p>49. Support to infrastructure development through: (a) the production of infrastructure standards; (c) thought leadership papers (e.g. “The Importance of infrastructure for LLDCs” which highlights potential solutions to ensure that LLDCs reap long-term benefits from improved infrastructure); and (c) employing and providing training for key infrastructure related personnel (e.g. Infrastructure Project Managers, Engineers, Architects, Quantity surveyors).</p>
WIPO	50. Furthering appropriate technology use through: (a) building institutional capacity, including the skills of national experts, in using/applying technical and scientific information to address identified development needs; (b) a needs-based approach enabling country-ownership; and (c) offering practical development related solutions.
Entity	B. VPoA related initiatives successfully supported by development partners
ADB	<p>1. Support to the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program: through: careful project preparation to meet the needs of all stakeholders; high-level dialogues on macroeconomic policies; the adoption of an Integrated Trade Agenda 2030; the development of an Advanced Transit System; the development of single-stop customs service; the development of an advanced regional economic corridor by pilot testing sections at the city/provincial level; and the endorsement of a High Technology Roadmap to apply new technologies for greener and energy efficient infrastructure.</p> <p>2. Developing a common regional energy market through cross border energy connectivity projects and sub-regional platforms to enable close coordination and collaboration among LLDCs and transit countries in Central, South and South-East Asia.</p> <p>3. Support to Nepal and Bhutan for road improvements, power trade, customs modernization and logistics development through US\$ 800 million in financial assistance.</p> <p>4. Support to Lao People’s Democratic Republic for road improvement, development along border areas and economic corridors, sustainable tourism, agricultural value chain, and biodiversity through US \$180 million in loans and grants.</p> <p>5. Support to Mongolia to upgrade road corridor, improve infrastructure/services in border towns and border crossing points, and develop national single window for trade through US \$130 million in financial assistance.</p>
AfDB	<p>6. Mainstreaming soft infrastructure in physical infrastructure project through ensuring that the harmonization of policies and regulations happens alongside hard infrastructure development.</p> <p>7. Financing infrastructure projects through a corridor approach to developing infrastructure projects which connects LLDCs to ports with other countries.</p> <p>8. Increasing regional power trade through investment and promotion of regional power trade and energy and ICT infrastructure.</p> <p>9. Financing trade facilitation programmes through the identification of trust funds.</p>

	<p>10. Support to diversifying exports, developing economic hubs along transport corridors, and developing regional value chains in member countries, through a regional strategic framework focused on trade and investment.</p> <p>11. Mobilizing resources through the Africa Investment Forum, where project promoters and financiers can interact, and countries and regional economic commissions can develop capital markets and provide trade finance.</p>
AUC	<p>12. Establishing a working group on SMART Corridors and trans-African highways through the promotion of corridors for trade facilitation and continental networks.</p> <p>13. Defining an access strategy in rural and remote areas through the introduction of the principle of inclusion of communities crossed up to 100 kilometers on each side of corridors.</p> <p>14. Defining a trans African railway network through a continental rail network and the removal of technical barriers to interoperability.</p> <p>15. Formulation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan 2 through giving equal opportunity for all Member States and regional economic commissions to propose integrative prioritization projects.</p> <p>16. Creation of the African Integrated High-speed Railway Network project through the integration of at least one LLDC per priority projects/lines.</p> <p>17. Support to the Single African Air Transport Market through the abolition of bilateral agreements in opposition to the provision of the Yamoussoukro Decision.</p> <p>18. Support to harnessing digital technologies and innovation to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, break the digital divide and eradicate poverty through the adoption of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030).</p>
CAF	<p>19. Support to transport, energy and ICT infrastructure through developing quality projects, understanding country needs and strengthening institutions.</p> <p>20. Support to regional integration and cooperation through the creation of programs that benefit two or more CAF shareholder countries.</p> <p>21. Support for structural economic transformation through managing the generation of first-source knowledge in each country for appropriate recommendations.</p>
CFC	<p>22. Support to organic coffee washing stations in Rwanda & Congo through allowing payment postponements for the processing and shipment of green coffee to export to Europe.</p> <p>23. Support to potato seeding farms in Ethiopia through the provision of support to restart the farms after federal urban policies negatively impacted upon them.</p>
EBRD	<p>24. Support for regional integration in North Macedonia through outreach to Bulgaria and Greece.</p>
IADB	<p>25. Provision of technical inputs to the Transit Guidelines of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and their translation into Spanish through good interagency collaboration between WCO and IADB.</p> <p>26. Facilitation of a regional workshop on transit co-organized with WCO in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2017 through good interagency collaboration.</p> <p>27. Support to regional entities to promote trade and participate in regional trade agreements in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay, through Mutual Recognition Agreements of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) that further alignment and coordination with the Andean Community (CAN) and the "Mercado Común del Sur" (MERCOSUR).</p> <p>28. Support to Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programmes in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay through the provision of a regional platform to exchange good practices and lessons learnt among countries, and capacity building during the different phases of AEO design and implementation.</p> <p>29. Support for coordinated border management activities and cross border diagnostics in the Plurinational State of Bolivia through facilitating the introduction of the theme among different border entities.</p> <p>30. Support for the establishment of a Single Window in the Plurinational State of Bolivia through preliminary diagnostics.</p>
IRU	<p>31. Support to reducing border waiting times through the implementation of the UN Convention on the International Transport of Goods (TIR) and related tools.</p>
ITLLDC	<p>32. Facilitating the exchange of views, experiences and knowledge on VPoA priorities through the organization of lectures, seminars, conferences, consultative meetings, workshops, panel presentations, interactive dialogues and side events on: (a) the Law of the Sea and interests of LLDCs; (b) Mongolia's export opportunities and access to the sea; (c) transportation connectivity in Central Asia and the liberalization of aviation and dry ports; (d) dry ports and LLDCs; (e) ICT connectivity and leapfrogging; (f) the role of ICT as a critical tool in disaster management; (g) national and cross border ICT infrastructure co-deployment in East and North East Asia; (h) international trade connectivity; (i) trade policy issues of Mongolia; (j) challenges of trade facilitation and transportation and logistics sector; (k) progress of regional integration among Asia-Pacific LLDCs and challenges in economic diversification; (l) transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda; (m) unlocking Asian</p>

	<p>LLDCs through financial technologies; (n) possible areas of collaboration and support on intellectual property, innovation, and technology for LLDCs; (o) impact investments and innovative resource mobilization to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation in LLDCs; (p) utilization of Geographical Simulation Models; (q) strengthening the role of the private sector role in VPoA implementation; (r) synergies between the Global Goals and the VPoA; (s) areas of interest for future collaboration between LLDCs and partner organizations; and (t) implementing and mainstreaming the VPoA in Mongolia.</p> <p>33. Developing LLDC capacities on VPoA related priorities through research and publications on: (a) sea access for Mongolia and other LLDCs: case of India and Nepal; (b) economic impact of Geographical Simulation Model on economic corridors of Mongolia-Russia-China and Lao People's Democratic Republic - China high-speed railway; (c) business model innovations required by transport companies to operate and profit within the LLDC context; (d) guidance on how alternative government policies can promote aviation industry growth; (e) best practices in establishing digital connectivity in a LLDC; (f) connectivity in LLDCs; (g) current ICT development, infrastructure, services, and applications in Mongolia in the context of disaster risk management; (h) how trade happens in LLDCs and how it may change in the future; (i) handbook for negotiators and practitioners of LLDCs on multilateral trade negotiations; (j) provisions, consequences and implementation processes of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement on LLDCs; (k) WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and implications for LLDCs; (l) trends, opportunities, and obstacles of economic exports and market diversification in 4 LLDCs; (m) fostering structural transformation and export diversification in selected Asian LLDCs; (n) challenges to strengthening emergency and essential surgical care at rural hospitals in Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (o) significance of correlation between foreign direct investments in primary industries, the diversification of economic activity, growth of international business, and integration of an LLDCs into the regional economy.</p>
NCTTCA	<p>34. Improving the implementation of regional initiatives and transit facilitation agreements through: the Northern Corridor Transport Observatory portal; self-regulatory charters; and regular road, trade and logistics surveys to map existing non-tariff barriers.</p> <p>35. Advocating for transport infrastructure development, maintenance and the identification of prevailing issues through the promotion of the Road-Side Station initiative along the Northern Corridor for health and safety purposes; and mapping out black spots along the corridor for the installation of road furniture.</p> <p>36. Promotion of the establishment of one stop border posts and sensitization on simplified customs procedures and processes through the elimination of multiple security bonds and customs declarations; and harmonization of business processes and promotion of trade facilitation regimes such as real-time gross settlement, electronic single window systems, regional electronic cargo tracking and simplified trade regime.</p> <p>37. Promoting cross border cooperation between Member states through strengthening Joint Border Management Committees and sensitization of Women and Youth on Cross Border Trade.</p>
OECD	<p>38. Support for greater development assistance to LLDCs to address SDGs through unttying aid to LDCs with the Brussels Program of Action and focusing on better government policies.</p>
OSCE	<p>39. Support to trade facilitation through: (a) a multi-stakeholder approach and cooperation among local and international experts and agencies in the adoption of a national trade facilitation roadmap for Kazakhstan; (b) enhancing capacities of national stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova in managing cross border e-commerce; and (c) publication of a handbook, in collaboration with UNECE, on best practices at border crossings from a trade and transport facilitation perspective.</p>
SADC	<p>40. Creation of one stop border posts for Zambia with neighbours through cooperation in coordinating their development</p>
TRACECA	<p>41. Improving supply chains along the corridor through feasibility studies on logistics centres in Central Asia.</p> <p>42. Eliminating border crossing barriers along the corridor through the TRACECA Guide for Border Crossing.</p> <p>43. Supporting the liberalization of cargo traffic along the corridor through the implementation of multilateral permits of the TRACECA system for international road transport.</p> <p>44. Improving corridor infrastructure through the package of proposals for TRACECA investment projects.</p>
WCO	<p>45. Increasing the number of contracting parties to the Revised Kyoto Convention on the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures through awareness raising activities and capacity building support for Members to accede to and implement the Convention.</p> <p>46. Development of the WCO Transit Guidelines through the participation of experts from Member Customs administrations, international and regional partner institutions, and development partners.</p>

	<p>47. Dissemination of the WCO Transit Guidelines through regional workshops in all six WCO regions to promote their implementation and further discuss challenges, solutions, and best practices in the area of transit.</p> <p>48. Development of a compendium of best practices in the area of transit through a collection of the best practices from regional workshops.</p> <p>49. Capacity building support to members for customs reform and modernization through regional economic integration workshops, the WCO Secretariat and WCO accredited experts from member customs administrations.</p>
WTO	<p>50. Effective financing of participation of capital-based officials from LDCs in the negotiations of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and meetings of the Trade Facilitation Committee, allowed for: (a) LLDCs to have ownership of the rules being adopted and participate in their formulation; (b) novel special and differential treatment provisions that provide flexibilities to developing countries in implementing their obligations.</p> <p>51. Establishment of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) to provide assistance for the implementation on a demand driven basis and serve as a matching platform for recipients and donors.</p> <p>52. The use of a monitoring and evaluation exercise helped assess members' needs for Aid for Trade (AFT) support, measure the impact of AFT interventions, increased donor confidence about their support and increase flows of donor support.</p>

Source: Corporate and follow-up questionnaire responses and interview with JIU participating organizations and development partners.

Item 6

UN-OHRLLS assessment of the adequacy of support for each VPoA priority, key actors involved and actions to enhance development outcomes

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Adequate: The organizations responsible for transit policy issues are actively involved in assisting LLDCs and advocating for the ratification of international transit related conventions.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	UN-OHRLLS, UN Regional Commissions, IRU, WCO, WTO, UNCTAD, UN-DOALOS, regional economic communities.
(iii) Potential actions:	UN-OHRLLS, UN Regional Commissions and regional economic communities have potential to work more closely together to monitor and gather data on specific objectives of this priority area. Potential for UN Regional Commissions to provide further capacity building to LLDCs and transit countries on transit issues.
Priority 2A: Transport infrastructure	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Somewhat adequate: There is a large transport infrastructure gap and LLDCs and transit countries require more technical and financial assistance for infrastructure maintenance and development and for mobilizing resources for infrastructure development.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	World Bank, UN Regional Commissions, multilateral and regional development banks, regional economic communities, UN-OHRLLS, UN-DESA, ICAO, UN-OSAA.
(iii) Potential actions:	The World Bank and regional development banks have the potential to be more engaged in supporting infrastructure investments in LLDCs and transit countries.
Priority 2B: Energy & ICT infrastructure	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Somewhat adequate: LLDCs face high cost of ICTs (particularly broadband) and face challenges in employing sustainable and affordable energy solutions.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	ITU, UNDP, UNIDO, IRENA, SE4All, World Bank, UN Regional Commissions, regional development banks, UN-OHRLLS.
(iii) Potential actions:	World Bank and regional development banks have the potential to enhance support towards affordable energy and ICT solutions in LLDCs.
Priority 3A: International trade	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Somewhat adequate: Since the implementation of the VPoA, the share of LLDCs in global trade has not increased and their exports remain highly concentrated.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, UN-OHRLLS, UN Regional Commissions, regional development banks, CFC, World Bank, UNDP.
(iii) Potential actions:	World Bank, regional economic communities and regional development banks have the potential to provide more support towards diversification of LLDC exports and adding value to their exports.
Priority 3B: Trade facilitation	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Somewhat adequate: Trade costs for LLDCs remain high, the rate of implementation of the WTO TFA is low, implementation of trade facilitation initiatives is limited.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, IRU, WCO, UN-OHRLLS, UN Regional Commissions, regional development banks, regional economic communities, World Bank, corridor organizations, UNDP.
(iii) Potential actions:	Regional commissions, regional economic communities and regional development banks and World Bank have the potential to increase support to implementation of trade facilitation reforms by LLDCs and transit countries.
Priority 4: Regional integration & cooperation	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Adequate: A lot of advancement in regional integration following the adoption of the VPoA, supported by technical assistance from the UN system.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	UN Regional Commissions, regional economic communities, regional development banks, World Bank, UN-OHRLLS, WTO, UNCTAD.
(iii) Potential actions:	More support from all entities could be provided to LLDCs and transit countries for the effective implementation of regional agreements.
Priority 5: Structural economic transformation	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Not adequate: LLDCs repeatedly point out the need for more UN system support towards the structural transformation of their economies, diversification and value addition.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	UNIDO, UNCTAD, UN-OHRLLS, CFC, UN Regional Commissions, FAO, UNCCD, UNFCCC, World Bank, ITC, UNDP, regional development banks, International Think Tank for LLDCs.
(iii) Potential actions:	More can be done by all through the provision of technical assistance to LLDCs towards building productive capacities, furthering diversification and supporting an enabling business environment.

Priority 6: Means of implementation	
(i) Adequacy of support:	Somewhat adequate: The UN system monitors financial flows to LLDCs, but more support for mobilization of resources by the LLDCs is needed.
(ii) Key actors (presently):	OECD, UN-OHRLLS, UNCTAD, World Bank, regional development banks, CFC, UN Regional Commissions.
(iii) Potential actions:	UN-OHRLLS has the potential to enhance advocacy for increased resource mobilization for LLDCs. All UN system entities have the potential to enhance their technical and capacity building support towards greater mobilization of resources to LLDCs.

Source: Corporate questionnaire responses from UN-OHRLLS.

Item 7

Summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations of UN-OIOS evaluation of UN-OHRLLS

A. Summary of findings

Finding 1: Important voice/support in intergovernmental processes to vulnerable Member States

- Effectively supported Member States to navigate intergovernmental machinery and serviced negotiations to reach informed country group positions.
- Advocated for LDC/LLDC/SIDS needs when outcomes (ministerial/political declarations) were negotiated through intergovernmental processes related to PoAs, the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- Organized events/conferences/meetings (approx. 50 per year) and financially supported Member States' attendance (which accounted for the majority of US\$ 14.4 million in extrabudgetary resourced mobilized from 2016-2019).
- Reported on PoA implementation for LDCs/LLDCs with conclusions/recommendations successfully fed into General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions.
- Aligned strategic framework, workplans and activities to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and incorporated SDGs into its workplan.
- Provided political advocacy/leadership in LDC Technology Bank setup (2016): mobilized resources, negotiated host country agreement, oversaw initiation of administrative/programmatic activities.

Finding 2: Uneven results in advocacy efforts to raise global awareness beyond intergovernmental process

- Used partnerships with UN system entities to leverage convening power to advocate on cross-cutting thematic issues: trade, development finance, energy, climate and LDC graduation.
- Few dedicated resources for advocacy activities - two posts in advocacy/outreach unit; staff spent only 16% of time on communications related tasks; no overarching advocacy strategy to link activities to specific advocacy goals.
- UN system entities noted low public awareness of PoAs at country/regional levels, despite reaching midpoint in implementation.
- Stakeholders noted limited UN-OHRLLS visibility beyond government delegates in NY and UN system partners.
- Limited reach of communications efforts/campaigns to broader target audiences: press releases (declining), op-eds, advocacy campaigns (short-term, narrowly focused) not widely carried/reported in online news outlets; difficulty in communicating office title (opportunity for rebranding); limited following and conversations in social media (Twitter/Facebook) related to UN-OHRLLS posts.
- Member States and partners noted that UN-OHRLLS needed to: strengthen internal advocacy with EOSG; further high-level advocacy through participation senior management bodies; provide greater attention to highlight country group achievements (e.g. LDC graduation) and gaps in development progress; and seek membership in UNSDG.

Finding 3: Utilized some successful partnership approaches, but coordination leading to more coherent implementation of the three Programmes of Action was less effective

- Distinct mandate on partnerships strategy only for SIDS but not LDCs/LLDCs: e.g. only SIDS sub-programme outlined enhanced inter-agency collaboration/partnerships as expected accomplishment and included a partnership section with dedicated partnership focal point in 2019 workplan.
- LLDC sub-programmes sustained fewer long-term partnerships (beyond ones formed for delivery of specific outputs) and missed opportunities to better leverage organizations with wider reach.
- Limited added value of Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) on LLDCs in coordinating PoA implementation. IACGs are held twice a year for LLDCs in person, serve as the primary coordination mechanisms with UN partners, and contribute to the visibility of country group issues. Meetings focused mostly on entity-specific activity updates and participants described them as passive information-sharing mechanisms. The lack of workplans result in perceived lack of focus on tangible outcomes without reporting or accountability mechanisms for members.
- Partnerships to coordinate at the regional level were particularly lacking. Stakeholders highlighted: a) institutionalized relationships with Regional Economic Commissions were generally lacking; b) disconnect with the regional level despite the central role that the commissions and other relevant regional organizations played in the follow-up and monitoring processes of PoAs.
- Perception of strong inter-agency competition (with DESA and UNCTAD due to shared common constituencies and mandate areas) impede positive working partnerships.

Finding 4: Reporting mandate for LLDCs met (timely, good quality reports) but unclear publications utility

- UN system entities contributing to annual reports of the Secretary-General on VPoA implementation rated UN-OHRLLS' coordination process positively for providing sufficient guidance (71 per cent) and adequate time (70 percent) but less so for valuing partner contributions (53 per cent) and reflecting contributions in final reports (49 per cent). Some partners stated that UN-OHRLLS ignored or minimized inputs provided. UN-OHRLLS noted the word limit for the Secretary-General's report as a constraint to reflecting all inputs.
- Member State noted that UN-OHRLLS reports provided useful reference for intergovernmental dialogue but tended to be repetitive, too general, and needing a more dynamic approach. OHRLLS staff suggested the Office could more effectively use its publications for advocacy, do more analysis in its reports and/or innovate its approach to reporting.

Finding 5: Process gaps and limited knowledge management prevented further efficiency gains

- UN-OHRLLS is challenged in addressing the mismatch between its broad mandate and comparatively limited resources. With only 28 staff, it faces growing requests for Member States with regards to its mandate to coordinate, advocate and report on behalf of three country groups comprising 91 countries with a cumulative population of over one billion
- Steps taken by UN-OHRLLS to maximize resource include identifying thematic focus areas, instituting focal point structures to guide its work, and utilizing meetings and events as the modality for mandate delivery; however, choices on where/how to invest time/effort were often reactive and un-planned.
- While UN-OHRLLS maintains a matrix to capture bilateral requests with identified follow-up actions and responsible staff, the matrix does not specify the nature of the request, the criteria considered in responding to the request or the identification of other UN system entities that might be better placed to respond to the request.
- UN-OHRLLS staff interviewed highlighted: (a) abundance of activities undertaken without the establishment of targets and priorities; (b) insufficiently consultative top-down work planning; and (c) a focus on organizing events at the detriment of monitoring longer-term outcomes of such event.
- Only 12% of total UN-OHRLLS staff travel was to LLDCs whereas 70% of trips were to non-constituent countries. Member State called for UN-OHRLLS staff to meet with development partners in non-constituent countries for advocacy purposes, and with different stakeholders in constituent countries to obtain a better understanding of issues facing these countries.
- UN-OHRLLS has prepared a working paper for potential collaboration areas between three country groups (LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS) following a Member States' recommendation to facilitate more dialogue and exchange between country groups given overlapping membership and shared priorities.
- Knowledge management practices are largely informal and UN-OHRLLS did not consistently capture knowledge exchange/learning from events.

B. Summary of conclusions

- UN-OHRLLS has positioned itself to effectively support Member States in intergovernmental processes and act as a convener of UN entities through a diverse range of events and partnerships at the global level.
- UN-OHRLLS must continue to think beyond the production of mandated outputs and more towards the achievement of desired impact.
- Given its small size and limited budget, UN-OHRLLS needs to leverage its expertise, experience and position to enhance: knowledge management; partnerships; use of social media, events and reports for focused advocacy; and proactive leadership with EOSG and General Assembly. New uses for limited funds, as well as new ways of doing its work, will yield not only efficiency gains but also more far-reaching results.
- UN-OHRLLS must clearly define its role based on its mandate and comparative advantage and coordinate with its partners accordingly.
- UN-OHRLLS must ensure that the needs of its three country groups remain at the forefront of its work.

C. Summary of recommendations

- UN-OHRLLS should develop an overarching advocacy strategy that clearly links activities to objectives tracked with performance measures.
- OHRLLS, in consultation with IACG members, should strengthen the IACGs as a mechanism for coordination around PoA implementation.
- UN-OHRLLS should enhance knowledge management in the Office to ensure more systematic and regular use of the systems already in place, and to create new systems or mechanisms where gaps may exist. OHRLLS may consider holding an office-wide workshop to discuss how to further enhance approaches for knowledge capture and use, such as managing advocacy-related information from notes-to-file.
- UN-OHRLLS should consider how to more systematically integrate gender and human rights into its reports, as relevant.
- The Executive Office of the Secretary-General should identify opportunities for greater engagement of UN-OHRLLS with the UNSDG and its members, particularly on issues of the most relevance to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Source: Evaluation of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). 27 February 2020. Assignment No: IED-19-009. United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Item 8

Key review questions and sub-questions

KEY REVIEW ISSUES

Objective 1: Assess the scope of support of UN system entities to LLDCs in relation to the VPoA, identify the areas where they are best placed to provide support, and assess their corresponding organizational capacity and internal and external coordination and collaboration to this end, including overlaps, gaps and ways and means to rationalize system-wide support to LLDCs.

Objective 2: Identify and assess measures taken to address challenges and constraints faced by UN system entities in providing support to LLDCs in relation to the VPoA, and from the assessments, develop lessons or principles on good practices to enhance success in VPoA implementation.

Objective 3: Examine national perspectives (LLDC delegates in New York or Geneva and line ministries in select LLDCs) on the VPoA's relevance to the development needs of LLDCs, and the adequacy of support from and coordination and collaboration between national governments and UN system entities on its implementation.

Associated review issues

1.A Relevance of VPoA to organizational mandate and corresponding directives issued

10. Relevance of VPoA to organizational mandate + VPoA priorities areas in which the entity is best placed to provide support based on its mandate + reflection of VPoA priorities into strategic frameworks and work programmes of organizations. (HQ, Reg-Com, UN-OHRLS, UNCT, CO, other IOs)
11. Directives from legislative body and executive head to support LLDCs to implement the VPoA + their evolution since VPoA adoption and mid-term review. (HQ, Reg-Com, CO, other IOs)
12. Directives/guidance provided to country offices and non-resident agencies in LLDCs to incorporate VPoA priorities into work programmes + utility of such guidance. (HQ, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO)
13. Action plan / strategy / targets / KPIs developed to support implementation of VPoA and monitor and report on contributions + merits/demerits of developing such tools/ products for practical application. (HQ, Reg-Com, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, other IOs)
14. Relevance of VPoA priorities to work of UN development system in country and their reflection in common country programming documents. (Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO)

1.B Internal capacity, awareness, training and coordination on VPoA

15. Roles and responsibilities, staffing capacity and accomplishments of organizational unit and/or focal point providing support to LLDCs on VPoA implementation. (HQ, Reg-Com, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, other IOs)
16. Level of awareness/understanding of VPoA and its priorities among relevant organizational personnel engaged in support to LLDCs. (HQ, Reg-Com, Reg-Cord, CO)
17. Availability, adequacy and delivery modality of specialized training and learning opportunities for personnel supporting VPoA implementation and additional training and learning needs. (HQ, Reg-Com, UNCT, CO, other IOs)
18. Effectiveness of deliberative mechanisms for intra-entity cooperation/ coordination/ information-sharing on VPoA implementation; challenges to coherence in intra-agency support and remedial measures. (HQ, Reg-Com, UNCT, CO, other IOs)

1.C Role and resourcing of UN- OHRLS to deliver on its VPoA related mandate

19. Satisfaction with OHRLS performance on (i) mobilizing/coordinating international support/resources for VPoA implementation; (ii) ensuring coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring/reporting on VPoA; (iii) advocating/ raising awareness on LLDCs; and (iv) fostering coherence with post-2030 development agendas; areas where OHRLS has performed particularly well and areas necessitating improvement. (HQ, Reg-Coms, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, MS, LM, other IOs)
20. Resourcing of UN-OHRLS vis-à-vis support to LLDCs to implement VPoA; adequacy of resourcing and addition resource needs and support provided by UN system entities and Member States to this end. (HQ, Reg-Coms, UN-OHRLS, UNCT, CO, MS)

1.D Inter-agency coordination on support to LLDCs to implement VPoA

21. Key challenges to coherence in inter-agency coordination on support to LLDCs and proposed remedial measures. (HQ, Reg-Com, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, other IOs)
22. Inter-agency coordination mechanisms and platforms (formal/ informal) on support to LLDCs in which the entity participates (established ToR for platform; frequency, level, nature of meetings; level of delegated authority; written records with follow-up actions and designated actors; concrete accomplishments and constraints.) (HQ, Reg-Com, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, other IOs)
23. Overlaps and gaps in UN system support to VPoA priorities and measures to rationalize support, while enhancing complementarity and maximizing synergy and coherence. (HQ, Reg-Com, UNCT, CO, MS, LM, other IOs)

1.E Coordination and cooperation with non-UN development partners on VPoA

24. Development partners outside the UN system with whom UN entities collaborate to support VPoA implementation; priorities supported by non-UN partners; priorities non-UN partners are better placed to support; measures to further effective coordination and cooperation with non-UN development partners support VPoA implementation. (HQ, Reg-Com, UNCT, CO, other IOs)

1.F Monitoring and reporting on VPoA implementation

25. Means to monitor and report on projects/programmes/activities undertaken to support six VPoA priorities; formal reporting requirements and frequency; conduct of audits and evaluations; challenges in monitoring, reporting and oversight and proposed remedial measures. (HQ, Reg-Com, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, other IOs)

Associated review issues

2.A Activities and initiatives undertaken (individually/ jointly) in relation to six VPoA priorities^{xxxxi}

26. Programmes/projects/activities undertaken/ expected to support VPoA implementation; priorities supported; beneficiary countries; intervention type; development goals benefited; collaborating entities; cost; financing entity; type of financing; timeframe; project description. (HQ, Reg-Com, Reg-Cord, CO)

2.B Accomplishments in supporting VPoA implementation: good practices and lessons learned^{xxxxii}

27. VPoA priorities successfully supported by entity including: related successful activities and corresponding measures + good practices and lessons learnt vis-à-vis "Do's" and "Don'ts" of attaining successful outcomes. (HQ, Reg-Com, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, other IOs)

2.C Main overarching challenges in supporting LLDCs on VPoA implementation^{xxxxiii}

28. Main overarching challenges faced by entity in supporting implementation of VPoA; extent of reflection of challenges in VPoA mid-term review outcome documents; main reason for shortcomings and lessons learned. (HQ, Reg-Com, Reg-Cord, CO, LM, other IOs)

2.D Measures to implement General Assembly directives to support LLDCs to address challenges related to VPoA implementation^{xxxxiv}

29. Measures entity is undertaking, planning to undertake, or can feasibly undertake between 2020-2024 to support LLDCs to implement directives emanating from General Assembly resolutions that call upon development partner support to address challenges related to Priorities 1 through 6 of the VPoA. (HQ, Reg-Com, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, LM, other IOs)

Associated review issues

3.A Relevance of VPoA to national development needs + corresponding mandates and directives

1. VPoA priorities most relevant to development needs of LLDC and their incorporation into national development plans/strategies; existence of national/sectoral action plan for VPoA implementation and UN system engagement in their development. (Reg-Coms, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, MS, LM)
2. Directives/guidance from line ministries to UN Country Teams to incorporate VPoA priorities into their programmatic activities; utility, acceptance and implementation of directives; reasons for non-acceptance. (Reg-Cord, UNCT, LM, CO)

3.B Coherence of VPoA with other development agendas (post-2015 and others)

3. Coherence of VPoA with other development agendas; measures to accelerate VPoA implementation where coherence exists; remedial measures where coherence is lacking. (HQ, Reg-Com, UN-OHRLS, UNCT, CO, MS, LM, other IOs)

3.C Priority actions emanating from VPoA mid-term reviews necessitating urgent support from UN system entities

4. Priorities (and corresponding recommendations) emerging from VPoA mid-term reviews necessitating most urgent support; UN system entities most active in support to VPoA implementation; UN system entities best-placed (based on their mandates) to provide support to address the most urgent needs. (HQ, Reg-Com, UNCT, CO, MS, LM)

3.D Inter-governmental and other platforms for deliberations on VPoA and collaboration with and support received by LLDCs from UN system entities

5. Existing platforms for dialogue between Member States and UN system entities on support to LLDCs and TDCs to implement the VPoA; concrete accomplishments, main challenges and remedial measures (HQ, Reg-Coms, UN-OHRLS, Reg-Cord, UNCT, CO, MS, LM)
6. Existing platforms for inter-governmental dialogue (global, regional, sub-regional) on the VPoA; type and nature of support that UN system entities have provided to LLDCs in such platform; areas/aspects of effective UN system support; main challenges in providing/receiving effective support in inter-governmental platforms and remedial measures. (HQ, Reg-Coms, UN-OHRLS, CO, MS, LM)
7. Good practices (vis-à-vis successes) and lessons learnt (vis-à-vis challenges) with regards to coordination and cooperation between LLDCs and UN system entities on VPoA implementation. (HQ, Reg-Coms, Reg-Cord, CO, MS, LM, other IOs)
8. Existence of designated focal points in relevant line ministries (foreign affairs, trade, transport etc.) in LLDCs on VPoA implementation; existence of TOR; responsibilities and roles of focal point; accomplishments and challenges in furthering effective engagement with UN system entities. (Reg-Coms, UN-OHRLS, UNCT, CO, MS, LM)
9. Any other issues related to UN system support to LLDCs to implement the VPoA (not covered in the questions above) that the JIU should take into consideration. (HQ, Reg-Coms, UNCT, CO, MS, LM)