

Training Workshop for policy-makers from LLDCs and transit countries on Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs

Virtual

27 – 28 September 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Improved transport connectivity is crucial for the achievement of the SDGs in LLDCs who because of their geography require an efficient transit transport system in order to effectively participate in global trade. Improving the transport connectivity of LLDCs requires development of both (i) the hardware or the physical infrastructure, and (ii) the software infrastructure or the necessary policies and regulatory frameworks.

The Midterm Review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs extensively analyzed transport connectivity for LLDCs and revealed that more needs to be done to improve transport infrastructure in both quality and quantity. It was noted that improved transport infrastructure is required not only along major transit corridors but also in the rural areas where production takes place. Building, extending, maintaining, and rehabilitating the transport infrastructure requires sizable investments and also substantial efforts to prepare and execute over the span of many years which was found to be limited in LLDCs. It was also noted that improvement in customs facilitation and processes with transit countries that ensures streamlined coordination and leverages the advantages of each mode of transport would also help reduce transport and trade costs.

The Midterm Review also noted that some regions with LLDCs had experienced poor progress in expanding and maintaining transport infrastructure due to lack of supportive policies and limited legal and regulatory frameworks and that climate change was affecting the transport infrastructure and the quality of transport systems in the regions, in particular in landlocked developing countries. The Midterm Review underscored the need for increasing investment in resilient, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure as fundamental to long term development. It also underscored the need for capacity to develop policies to integrate the development and maintenance of transboundary transport infrastructure in national development strategies. The Political Declaration adopted at the Midterm Review highlights some of these key areas including in particular: development of bankable infrastructure and transport development projects; climate- and disaster-resilient transport infrastructure; enabling environment for public and private sustainable investment and infrastructure operations; and development, functioning and management of corridors.

UN-OHRLLS and its partners conducted virtual training workshops on “Strengthening Capacity in Developing Bankable Transport Infrastructure Projects for Enhanced Connectivity” held on 6-8 April 2021 for the Africa region and on 18-20 May 2021 for the Asia region. The training was

focused on preparing viable or bankable projects to expand or upgrade their transport infrastructure. UN-OHRLLS and partners propose to conduct additional training on “Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs” which will be focused on equipping policymakers with knowledge and skills to design and implement policies that promote transport connectivity including policies needed for responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on transport systems; building of climate- and disaster-resilient transport infrastructure; establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks to promote efficient transit transport; and financing transport connectivity.

Objective of training

The main objective of the training will be to enhance the capacity of policymakers from LLDCs and transit countries and equip them with knowledge and skills required to develop relevant policies to promote transport connectivity, promote development of climate resilient infrastructure and to respond to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on transport connectivity. It will also focus on soft infrastructure issues such as how to strengthen national legal and regulatory frameworks on transit transport and in implementing relevant instruments, norms and standards on transport. It will also help them share experience and best practices on promoting transport connectivity.

Expected outcomes

- Enhanced skills of policy-makers required to develop relevant policies to promote transport connectivity;
- Policy recommendations to promote transport connectivity of the LLDCs identified from discussions in the training.

Participants: The training is intended for policy-makers from Ministries of Transport, and of Planning and other relevant departments of LLDCs and transit countries.

Partners: The training will be organized in collaboration with other relevant partners including African Development Bank, UNECA, ESCAP, UNECLAC and Regional Economic Communities.

Format of the training: The training has modules and other background materials. The training will be virtual and consist of presentations of the relevant topics by different resource persons using many case studies as much as possible. Participants will be given opportunities to share their experiences.

Languages: The training will have simultaneous interpretation - English; French and Spanish.

Timeline: The training is for a duration of 2 days – 27 and 28 September 2021 for Africa and Latin America regions.