



**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,  
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

**Report of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up  
and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs**

Held on 15 November 2023, 9:00 pm-12:00 pm (New York time)

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Opening session .....	3
3. Session on the Third UN Conference on LLDCs.....	4
4. Closing session .....	13
Annex I: List of Participants.....	13
Annex II: Agenda .....	16
Annex III: Statements provided by participants.....	18

## 1. Introduction

The meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) was held on 15 November 2023. It discussed progress made by IACG members to implement the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and allowed for an update and exchange of views on the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs (LLDC3), scheduled for June 2024.<sup>1</sup>

The meeting took place in a virtual format and brought together representatives from 29 UN and other international and regional organizations (detailed in Annex I). It involved an opening session that included opening remarks delivered by Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, and by Mr. Ishmael Dabutha, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Botswana to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of LLDCs.

The subsequent session of the meeting was on the Third UN Conference on LLDCs and comprised a presentation from OHRLLS on preparations for the Conference followed by statements and presentations from IACG members on priorities for the new Programme of Action.

## 2. Opening session

Chairing the opening session, **Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS**, provided an update on preparations for LLDC3. She thanked participants for their active engagement in the three regional preparatory meetings for LLDC3 held in Gaborone-Botswana, Asunción-Paraguay, and Bangkok-Thailand, in 2023, and indicated that the outcome documents from these meetings are to serve as important inputs for the upcoming work of the LLDC3 Preparatory Committee.

Ms. Rabab Fatima stressed the importance of developing informative knowledge products and hosting dissemination events in the lead up to LLDC3. She welcomed and encouraged the production and distribution of upcoming thematic publications and dedicated events by IACG members in preparation for LLDC3.

Ms. Rabab Fatima provided updates on the planning for the LLDC3 conference, including the findings of a planning mission to Kigali in November 2023, indicating that we are in excellent and experienced hands with Rwanda as the host and that President Kagame has assured of his support for excellent organization and facilities, as well as a strong and ambitious outcome. She indicated that LLDC3 will follow the approach of LDC5 in aiming to garner the broadest stakeholder engagement, including with dedicated tracks on South-South cooperation, the Private Sector, Civil society, Parliamentarians and Youth. Ms. Rabab Fatima further shared that LLDC3 is to be preceded by a meeting of the Broadband Commission on the margins of LLDCs, which will reinforce the conference and bring numerous synergies.

Ms. Rabab Fatima indicated that a letter of invitation to the Conference has been sent out to principals of the members of the IACG for LLDCs and that she was looking forward to hearing of initial confirmations. She indicated that the Secretary General will convene a high-level event of the UN system during the Conference, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the landlocked developing countries. The date and time of this event will be determined in consultation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, but is provisionally being considered for the afternoon of

---

<sup>1</sup> As decided in UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/76/217](#) of 17 December 2021 (paragraph 25).

Monday 17 June 2024, which is the day before the formal opening of the LLDC3. IACG members were asked to flag this date for their respective Front Offices.

Ms. Rabab Fatima shared that OHRLLS will shortly invite applications for the convening of side events at the LLDC3 conference. She stressed the need to ensure that LLDC3 conveys the message that it is supported by the entire UN system, from Resident Coordinators and country teams, to principals.

Ms. Rabab Fatima updated that the LLDC3 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) held its organizational session on 13 September 2023, at which it elected its Bureau, including the Co-chairs, the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Mongolia.

**Mr. Ishmael Dabutha, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Botswana to the United Nations**, provided a statement updating the IACG on preparations for LLDC3. He indicated that Member States will soon begin preparing the draft of the outcome document for the Conference followed by negotiations on that document. He indicated that there will be opportunities in the course of the negotiations for IACG members to follow the process and provide inputs to the draft outcome document.

Mr. Ishmael Dabutha emphasize the UN development system's role as a crucial partner in sustainable development efforts. He commended various UN agencies for their supportive work, citing examples such as the United Nations Environment Program and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, for their contributions to implementing the Vienna Program of Action.

Mr. Ishmael Dabutha highlighted the growing momentum in both substantive and organizational aspect towards LLDC3, emphasizing the role of the regional review meetings in Gaborone, Ascension, and Bangkok in producing key recommendations for the LLDC conference's outcome document.

Mr. Ishmael Dabutha shared that the theme for LLDC3 is "Driving Progress Through Partnerships." He mentioned the formation of a core group led by Botswana to draft the LLDC3 outcome document, with a focus on identifying priorities and actions for the LLDC's development in the next decade. He emphasized that the LLDC3 Conference is seen as an opportunity to generate solutions and build partnerships. He indicated that two preparatory committee sessions for the Conference are scheduled in February and May 2024.

Mr. Ishmael Dabutha closed by encouraging United Nations agencies to provide valuable inputs for LLDC3, emphasizing the importance of analytical contributions and events in respective areas of competence.

### 3. Session on the Third UN Conference on LLDCs

The Session on the Third UN Conference on LLDCs was chaired by **Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS**.

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg emphasized the encouragement and invitation to IACG members to bring out substantive reports that contribute to LLDC3, indicating that these contributions can be shared on the LLDC3 website.

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg provided updates on upcoming events in the lead up to LLDC3. This included a high-level event at COP28 focusing on the unique climate vulnerabilities of LLDCs, a Ministerial-level Meeting of LLDCs on 14-15 December 2023 in Yerevan on “enhancing equitable, affordable, and inclusive

transport connectivity as a driver for more sustainable and resilient economies in LLDCs”, and a Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO in February 2023.

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg shared that OHRLLS had recently worked on the 10-year assessment report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs which was already issued as the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the VPoA, He indicated that OHRLLS are finalizing a report on “An assessment of the cost of being landlocked and progress on the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action” and are working on a report entitled “Estimating the Transport and Trade Costs of LLDCs”.

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg updated that the LLDC3 Co-Chairs of the Bureau of the Prep Com, together with the Bureau members, will be guiding the preparatory process for the Conference. He informed the IACG members that OHRLLS is working with DGACM and other departments of the UN on the Conference. He shared that there will be a special accreditation window for non-governmental organizations that are not accredited with ECOSOC to apply and encouraged IACG members to share this information with any non-accredited NGOs that might wish to attend. The link to the Indico website is on the OHRLLS homepage.

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg finally welcomed IACG members to share progress made in the implementation of the VPoA and to their views on priorities for the new Programme of Action.

**Mr. Denis Nkala, UN Office for South South Cooperation**, mentioned working closely with the UN Regional Commissions and focusing on South-South cooperation as a means of implementation across various issues. He highlighted the upcoming joint ministerial meeting on South-South Cooperation, aimed at facilitating collaboration among countries to better implement South-South and triangular cooperation. The meeting will draw on guidelines developed for implementing such cooperation at regional and country levels.

Mr. Denis Nkala referred to ongoing work with guidelines, soon to be released by the United Nations Development Coordination Office, on integrating South-South cooperation and that these guidelines should be incorporated into the efforts of the UN system and Member States, particularly in achieving objectives related to landlocked developing countries. He referenced the success of previous ministerial meetings during LLDC 5 in Qatar and outlined plans for deep dives into case studies, focusing on how South-South and triangular cooperation have been applied in LLDCs.

The objective is to delve into the challenges faced, how they were overcome, and to extend these experiences to other regions. He expressed a desire for concrete outcomes and follow-up activities, indicating collaboration with international finance institutions for support.

**Ms. Angelica Jacome, Director of the Office of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, provided insights into FAO’s role, stating that through its strategic framework, FAO aims to support the SDG 2030 agenda and other global goals. The focus is on transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Highlighting FAO’s commitment, Ms. Jacome emphasized that agrifood systems transformation should be captured in the Kigali Programme of Action. She also indicated FAO supports a range of initiatives- including the Hand-in-Hand Initiative- that are country-led and country owned. She further shared details

about the High-Level Ministerial Event Transforming agrifood systems to increase resilience and achieve the 2030 Agenda - Harnessing the potential of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries held at FAO Headquarters on 29 June 2023. During the event, ministers issued a [Call for Action](#), requesting the establishment of a ministerial network for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs with FAO's technical support and to share the outcome with the upcoming intergovernmental processes related to SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, including LLDC3. Ms. Jacome shared that this network would facilitate sharing experiences and collectively building resilience to climate change and food security. Additionally, it would support securing investments to scale up agrifood systems transformation through the means of implementation such as the abovementioned Hand-in-Hand Initiative; the One Country One Priority Product Initiative; the Green Cities Initiative; the Digital Villages Initiative; the Blue Transformation Roadmap; and innovative climate financing, including the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility.

**Mr. Robert Powell, Special Representative of the IMF to the UN**, expressed strong support for the LLDC3 process and outlined the IMF's focus on macro stability, domestic and external resource mobilization, and debt issues relevant to landlocked developing countries. He clarified that the IMF doesn't have a specific LLDC category but addresses each country's circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The IMF's involvement in the LLDC conference will center on its usual set of issues, including capacity development, revenue mobilization, climate concerns, and inclusion. The speaker shared their commitment to fitting these topics into the LLDC conference agenda.

**Mr. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Director of the Division for Africa at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** conveyed a brief but supportive message regarding their involvement in the LLDC Conference. He affirmed the commitment of IAEA to assisting landlocked developing countries and briefly outlined their focus areas in nuclear energy and related matters. He shared three important initiatives of the IAEA including the Rise of Hope, to address the challenges of the LDCs in terms of capacity building and capability, Atoms for Food, looking at the challenges of food safety, food security and sovereignty, and contributions to Green Energy. He acknowledged the role of IAEA in facilitating discussions and cooperation related to the peaceful use of nuclear technology, nuclear safety, and other pertinent issues. He conveyed the IAEA's dedication to contributing to the LLDC conference agenda in relevant areas.

**Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig, Senior Counsellor of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, expressed gratitude for being invited to the meeting, acknowledging the update on preparations for the Third UN conference on landlocked developing countries. He highlighted WIPO's continuous contribution to implementing the goals set in the Vienna Program of Action over the last decade. He further pointed out the challenges that LLDCs face in the areas of science, technology, and innovation, crucial for structural transformation and sustainable development. Despite slow progress in these areas, he emphasized the need for concrete initiatives to foster productive capacities and facilitate structural transformation, including adopting enabling policies for science, research and development, and innovation.

Highlighting the role of intellectual property as a powerful tool for growth and sustainable development, Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig suggested that the new program of action for LLDCs should include specific support actions for facilitating the creation of enabling intellectual property ecosystems. This would promote innovation and creativity while providing skills to empower people, businesses, and communities.

Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig also referenced WIPO's recent suggestions in the Secretary General's report on the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action. These suggestions included assisting LLDCs in developing inclusive intellectual property ecosystems, enhancing support services, and mechanisms for IP stakeholders in LLDCs, and increasing intellectual property knowledge and skills for various stakeholders. The speaker expressed WIPO's commitment to actively participate in the preparation of the third UN Conference on LLDCs with a focus on supporting LLDCs in promoting the use of intellectual property for economic transformation, productive capacity enhancement, and economic diversification.

**Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, Representative of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) New York Office**, expressed anticipation for upcoming initiatives, including a publication on connectivity and landlocked developing countries and a planned call for commitments using the Partner to Connect platform. The speaker also highlighted the excitement about hosting a Broadband Commission meeting, emphasizing two priorities to accelerate SDG progress for LLDCs: universal and meaningful connectivity, and sustainable digital transformation.

Addressing the challenges, the Ms. Ursula Wynhoven noted that 3.6 billion people have never been connected to the internet, and many lack meaningful access. They emphasized the need for landlocked countries to be part of the digital revolution to benefit from the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution. Access to undersea cables poses a cost barrier for internet connection in landlocked countries.

Referring to the Doha Programme of Action, Ms. Ursula Wynhoven mentioned its digital references, suggesting that these could benefit landlocked developing countries. Specifically, they outlined opportunities to strengthen the focus on digital infrastructure, policy frameworks, cross-border data flows, regional and global harmonization, and building digital economies and societies. In the context of means of implementation, the speaker proposed adding a focus on digital enablers and building local capacity in areas such as innovation policy implementation and law enforcement. The speaker concluded with gratitude.

**Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer of the Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, emphasized the need for an ambitious and comprehensive outcome document for the LLDC3 conference, focusing on key development challenges. He advocated for evidence-based and data-driven approaches, highlighting three key areas for attention.

Firstly, the clear identification and understanding of comparative advantages and binding constraints faced by landlocked developing countries. He stressed the importance of tailoring policy actions and strategies to address these constraints and development challenges effectively. He emphasized directing domestic efforts and international support measures toward areas of utmost importance for the countries and their people.

Mr. Andrzej Bolesta further asserted that the LLDC3 conference should prioritize building productive capacities and ensuring structural economic transformation in LLDCs. He argued that building productive capacities is crucial for achieving economic diversification, reducing vulnerabilities to shocks, and promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development. He encouraged LLDCs to conduct national assessments of productive capacities and implement holistic development programs to address gaps and limitations.

**Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, confirmed full support for the LLDC3 Conference and added that UNCTAD would continue its work in relevant areas for LLDCs. He emphasized their commitment to contributing to the preparations of the Conference, highlighting the various UNCTAD tools and solutions available. He expressed eagerness to collaborate with the OHRLLS, demonstrating the capabilities of UNCTAD, and working with both landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement and showcase successful implementations in transport and trade facilitation.

**Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Director General of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITLLDCs)**, expressed gratitude for the invitation from OHRLLS to participate in the meeting and shared insights on the contributions of their organization focused on interconnection and localization for landlocked developing countries. He highlighted their involvement in the drafting of the Vienna Programme of Action and the production of research papers supporting its priorities.

For the new program of action, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od emphasized the importance of addressing issues such as transport, trade facilitation, regional integration, and climate change. He specifically mentioned the negative impacts of climate change on LLDCs, including disasters. ITLLDC is actively working on capacity-building projects for LLDCs in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

In terms of regional integration, Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od advocated for LLDCs to connect to supply chains and value chains at the regional level. He also stressed the significance of infrastructure development, particularly in the ICT sector, with a focus on private sector involvement.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od shared an initiative discussed during a business dialogue in Mongolia, suggesting the need for an Infrastructure Development Fund that could invest in road and ICT projects in LLDCs. He indicated that the ITLLDC is planning side events during the third UN conference on LLDCs, collaborating with partners such as the ITU regional office and the ITC.

**Ms. Michelle Lau-Burke, Officer in Charge, the International Trade Centre (ITC) Representative New York**, emphasized the importance of incorporating a strong trade and private sector angle, particularly focusing on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), in the next program of action for landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). She outlined ITC's strategy, which includes strengthening the capacity of small businesses in LLDCs to overcome trade and transport challenges.

Ms. Michelle Lau-Burke highlighted key areas of their strategy, including enhancing the capacity of small businesses to access markets, promoting digital transformation, digital skills, capacity building, and supporting climate resilience among small businesses. She shared that a significant portion of ITC's project delivery (23-28%) from January to June 2023 was in least developed countries (LDCs).

ITC has already collaborated with OHRLLS to host preparatory events for the next LLDC program of action, including a side event during the SDG Action Weekend and sessions at the World Export Development Forum in Mongolia. Ms. Michelle Lau-Burke mentioned ITC's commitment to supporting LLDCs and their preparation for the upcoming conference.

Ms. Michelle Lau-Burke highlighted several ways ITC can support LLDCs, including the Market Access Upgrade Program (Markup 2) aimed at promoting economic growth in the East African Community.

Additionally, ITC focuses on climate resilience, gender empowerment through SheTrades hubs, and digitalization and digital transformation as key priorities for LLDCs.

Ms. Michelle Lau-Burke detailed how digital technologies and online services could empower LLDCs by addressing key barriers such as long distances, customs procedures, administrative hurdles at borders, limited transport infrastructure, and challenges in accessing finance. Online marketplaces and digitalization can help overcome these barriers, making trade more predictable, lowering costs, and facilitating access to finance for MSMEs in LLDCs.

**Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Chief of Section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**, emphasized the need for a results-oriented focus in contributing to the new program of action for Landlocked Developing Countries. He outlined a set of concrete initiatives designed to address key challenges and foster sustainable development involving the following in the areas of the Trade Division:

The first initiative centers on Trade Facilitation and Digitalization for Connectivity, where governments will receive support in establishing paperless trading systems and risk-based customs clearance aligned with WTO requirements, facilitated through the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business. The second initiative, Transformative Change, aims to assist governments in developing coherent policies that promote transformative innovation. This involves the implementation of national innovation for sustainable development reviews and regional innovation policy outlooks. For the third initiative, the focus is on the intersection of Circular Economy and STEP (Stakeholder Engagement Platform). This effort is geared towards helping governments transition to a circular economy through effective engagement with the multi-stakeholder network of the STEP. Optimization of Supply Chain Efficiency, the fourth initiative, underscores the importance of conducting national studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. This initiative aims to enhance supply chain efficiency and contribute to a more seamless trade environment. Addressing sustainability concerns, the fifth initiative aims to support governments in Sustainable Trade, particularly in building traceability for sustainable garment and footwear. This effort is supported by a team of specialists focusing on environment, social, and governance. The final initiative in the Trade Division is focused on Innovative Finance. ECE will provide a public-private partnership and infrastructure evaluation and rating system free of charge to support innovative finance for sustainable development.

Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos further highlighted relevant initiatives from the ECE Transport Division Initiatives:

The first initiative focuses on the development of Electronic Versions of CMR and TIR Conventions, aiming to reduce time and costs and facilitate smoother border crossings. The second initiative involves the creation of Electronic TIR Corridors, with a particular focus on Central Asia. This initiative aims to facilitate trade and improve connectivity in the region. The third initiative is centered around the National Transport Infrastructure Observatory, a GIS Observatory with information about transport infrastructure from UN member states. This tool supports the financing of new transport infrastructure projects and aids in climate change adaptation. The fourth initiative introduces the Sustainable Transport Connectivity Indicators Tool (SIKKIM), a platform with indicators for sustainable transport connectivity. This initiative aims to enhance regional connectivity through sustainable transport indicators.

**Ms. Thilly De Bodt, Acting Head, Strategic Planning, Coordination and Partnerships of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak. She emphasized

ICAO's strong support for the third UN conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. As a specialized UN agency, ICAO serves as a platform for 133 countries to discuss and enhance aviation safety, security, economic viability, and environmental sustainability.

Ms. Thilly De Bodt highlighted the crucial role of sustainable aviation in connecting LLDCs to regions and promoting socioeconomic development. More than half of international tourists use air travel, contributing significantly to the economic development of states, including LLDCs. ICAO is exploring ways to best support LLDCs, possibly through a needs analysis, and hopes that the preparatory documents and program of action acknowledge the vital role of aviation. Ms. Thilly De Bodt indicated that ICAO is ready to provide written inputs to the LLDC3 process as necessary.

**Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief of Section of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**, provided insights into their preparations for the third UN conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. Referencing the high-level Euro-Asian Regional Final Review Meeting of the Vienna Programme of Action earlier in the year, Mr. Oliver Paddison highlighted the commitment of over 100 participants in the region to addressing LLDC challenges. Progress in developing transport, energy, and ICT infrastructure was acknowledged, but it was emphasized that LLDCs still face significant gaps compared to coastal neighbors, necessitating enhanced regional connectivity.

The challenges of achieving structural economic transformation and export diversification were discussed, with a call for innovative approaches and strengthened cooperation. ESCAP organized a dedicated dialogue on the global polycrisis's impact on LLDCs, emphasizing the importance of seamless transit and soft infrastructure. ESCAP expressed readiness to contribute substantively to the conference, potentially organizing a side event and participating in plenaries. Ongoing support for Asian LLDCs, shaped by the roadmap for accelerated Vienna Programme of Action implementation, will continue. ESCAP aims to translate the new program of action into a roadmap for implementation, focusing on sustainable regional infrastructure development and trade facilitation efforts. Digital connectivity remains a priority, aligned with the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026. ESCAP looks forward to continued collaboration with various organizations to assist LLDCs in preparing for the conference and implementing the Kigali Programme of Action.

**Mr. Raul Torres, Development Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**, discussed the process and contributions for the drafting of the new program of action, emphasizing the involvement of WTO members. They highlighted the preparation of a matrix to analyze outcomes from the three regional reviews to ensure the incorporation of relevant recommendations into the drafting process, especially focusing on trade-related aspects. He shared that efforts were made to explore new or novel issues beyond the Vienna Program of Action.

Key issues discussed included customs agent digitalization, interconnectivity, and interoperability of digitized custom systems. The need for transit corridors with measurable performance criteria, examination of rules of origin and SPS measures for goods in transit, improved customs coordination, and harmonization of procedures were emphasized. Mr. Raul Torres also called for increased donor support through the trade facilitation agreement facility. Another area of exploration was aligning transport services agreements with trade facilitation measures to avoid hindrances like quotas on the number of trucks.

Mr. Raul Torres highlighted the importance of LLDCs adopting policies and strategies to leverage the upcoming energy transition. He expressed commitment to working closely with OHRLLS, staying in touch frequently, and coordinating for the ministerial meeting at the 13th WTO conference.

**Mr. Andrey Kuleshov, Senior Project Manager of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)**, highlighted their commitment to supporting sustainable development in commodity value chains, with a special focus on landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). The CFC considers LLDCs a vulnerable priority group and plans to increase attention to this group with the upcoming Kigali meeting.

He emphasized the importance of impact investments in commodity value chains as effective instruments for promoting sustainable development. The CFC is actively promoting innovation in technology and financial instruments to support these value chains. An example mentioned was the development of impact bonds for commodity value chains and ongoing work on various forms of collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Mr. Kuleshov shared the progress made with the Agricultural Commodity Transformation Fund, aiming to be the first public-private investment fund of its kind sponsored by an international organization and open to private investors. The CFC is in discussions with UNCTAD and UNIDO to contribute substantively to discussions in Kigali.

Mr. Andrey Kuleshov expressed hope of the potential of commodities in advancing sustainable development and the importance of public-private collaboration for impact investments in the commodity sector will be duly reflected in the expected Kigali Program of Action.

**Ms. Mara A. Murillo-Correa, Senior Programme Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share ideas discussed during the regional consultation for the new program of action for Landlocked Developing Countries. She emphasized priorities such as redefining the relationship with nature, aligning strategies with the global cybersecurity framework, addressing climate change vulnerabilities and impacts, improving pollution and waste management, and harnessing digital transformation for global sustainability.

She also highlighted the need for a “snowball” energy transition, prioritizing the sustainable development of critical energy transition minerals in LLDCs. Collaboration with UN entities on this initiative is already underway. Additionally, Ms. Mara A. Murillo-Correa emphasized enhancing means of implementation to address the impacts of multiple crises and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This involves promoting the integration of stability and resilience into planning processes and developing high-level integrated financing strategies to catalyze private finance aligned with sustainability objectives.

**Ms. Toni-Shae Aqeelah Freckleton, Chief of New York Office of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**, expressed gratitude for the engagement in the work for the upcoming program of action for Landlocked Developing Countries. She emphasized the need to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience building into LLDCs' development efforts, recognizing the disproportionate impact of disasters on LLDCs, especially those resulting from climate change. Ms. Toni-Shae Aqeelah Freckleton highlighted the severe negative impacts that have hindered the implementation of the program of action and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

The priority focus for UNDRR is on climate adaptation and building resilience, given the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters affecting LLDCs. Recommendations include a focus on resilient trade

and value chains, resilient infrastructure, and climate-resilient projects in transport, energy, and ICT. UNDRR strongly advocates for partnerships and cooperation around Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasizing financing for risk reduction, de-risking investments, and improving access to climate finance for LLDCs. Freckleton assured full support from UNDRR through providing language proposals to the secretariat and active participation in the Kigali conference.

**Ms. Oksana Leshchenko, Senior Advisor of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, expressed gratitude to OHRRLLS for convening the meeting and commended the timely preparation for LLDC3, acknowledging the thematic issues identified during regional consultations. She highlighted UNDP's on-the-ground presence in 32 LLDCs through country offices, emphasizing years of support for addressing landlockedness challenges, including aid for trade programs.

UNDP is enthusiastic about aligning its work in LLDCs with the new 10-year agenda of action, focusing on thematic issues such as innovation, climate change, and digital public infrastructure. Ms. Oksana Leshchenko mentioned the strategic plan of UNDP, emphasizing the organization's commitment to contributing substantively, participating in conferences, and actively engaging in the drafting of the new agenda for 2024.

UNDP particularly emphasized the importance of addressing issues like access to finance, digital public infrastructure, and energy transition, aligning with the broader themes of climate action, resilient infrastructure, and ICT. Ms. Oksana Leshchenko assured the IACG of UNDP's commitment to contributing substantively to discussions leading up to and during the conference.

**Ms. Vyara Filipova, Technical Officer of the World Customs Organization (WCO)**, emphasized the importance of keeping transit policy issues and trade facilitation as priorities in the next program of action for LLDCs. WCO is ready to support customs administrations, especially in transit developing countries, in these areas. Ms. Vyara Filipova highlighted that efficient, harmonized, and automatic paperless customs procedures represent soft infrastructure that can enhance transport connectivity and increase countries' economic competitiveness.

Ms. Vyara Filipova referenced the outcome documents from the three regional high-level meetings, emphasizing the significance of the efficient implementation of agreements and initiatives promoting trade facilitation, such as the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention. Transit transport corridors were underscored as vital components of transportation networks, and innovative approaches to addressing transit, transport, and trade facilitation in a holistic manner were deemed necessary.

Ms. Vyara Filipova outlined key areas of focus, including transparency and predictability, border agency cooperation, freedom of transit, and coordination through national committees for trade facilitation. Efficient exchange of information through automated systems, effective guarantee systems, and security measures such as the Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) were identified as crucial elements, requiring a regional approach for maximum effectiveness.

Ms. Vyara Filipova highlighted the need for LLDCs to enhance efforts to integrate into e-commerce. She reiterated the WCO's commitment to supporting LLDCs in these areas, as well as in e-commerce, the use of advanced technologies by customs, gender equality and diversity, disaster relief, and green customs.

Ms. Vyara Filipova informed the group about a pre-conference event—a regional transit workshop in February in Douala, Cameroon. This workshop will focus on the interconnectivity of customs ID systems

in the Western Central Africa region and regional transit guarantee teams. She concluded by expressing gratitude and passing the floor back to the audience.

**Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin, Economic Affairs Officer of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**, highlighted the coordination with OHRLLS for the review of the Vienna Program of Action implementation in Latin America. She mentioned the completion of a document updating indicators for Paraguay's national connectivity report, incorporating indicators for social development and sustainable inland transport connectivity.

Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin delved into the impact of infrastructure projects on indigenous communities, the inclusion of principles like gender equality and climate change, and the improvement of national statistics systems, all essential for current and future analyses. She emphasized the importance of addressing emerging challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, and gender equality, as they affect the infrastructure and transportation systems of the region.

Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin highlighted the vulnerability of LLDCs to climate change due to geographical location, population distribution, and natural resource-based production patterns. She stressed the need to consider gender equality as a critical challenge and emphasized the importance of closing gaps between men and women in various areas.

Regarding national connectivity, Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin outlined a framework based on 161 indicators developed exclusively for landlocked countries. In the case of Paraguay, the indicators cover two transport modes: road and inland waterways. She expressed the commitment to reinforce multimodality and implement corridors to integrate and connect landlocked countries like Paraguay with the rest of the region.

Ms. Miryam Saade Hazin reiterated the support of ECLAC for the success of the upcoming conference and expressed readiness to assist in all required activities to advance sustainable development and integration for landlocked countries.

#### 4. Closing session

**Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS**, thanked IACG members for their very important work and for their great level of participation to the meeting, which, he said, was a testimony to the importance and high priority attached to effectively supporting the LLDCs. He invited participants to share their written statements to OHRLLS for inclusion in the meeting report.

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg indicated that another meeting of the IAGC will be organized once further information is available on substantive, organizational and logistical matters ahead of LLDC3.

## Annex I: List of Participants

### **Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the LLDCs**

**15 November 2023, 9:00 – 12:00, New York time**  
Virtual meeting

**Mission of Botswana**

1. Mr. Ishmael Dabutha, Deputy Permanent Representative
2. Ms. Lorato Motsumi, First Secretary

**Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)**

3. Mr. Andrey Kuleshov, Senior Project Manager

**Development Coordination Office (DCO)**

4. Ms. Carmen Arguello, Sustainable Development Officer

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

5. Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Chief of Section

**United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

6. Miryam Saade Hazin, Economic Affairs Officer

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

7. Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief of Section
8. Mr. Yusuke Tateno, Economic Affairs Officer

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

9. Ms. Angélica María Jácome Daza, Diunrector, FAO Office for LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS
10. Ms. Doris Ngirwa-Mpesha, Sustainable Development Advisory

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

11. Mr. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Director, Division for Africa, Department of Technical Cooperation
12. Mr. Mickel Edwerd, Section Head, Division for Africa, Department of Technical Cooperation
13. Ms. Laura Vai, Programme Planning Officer

**International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

14. Ms. Thilly De Bodt, Acting Head, Strategic Planning, Coordination and Partnerships

**International Development Law Organization (IDLO)**

15. Ms. Namizata Meite, Program Coordinator for Africa
16. Ms. Silvia Porcaro

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

17. Mr. Robert Powell, Special Representative to the UN
18. Mr. Samuel Hyunho Chung

**International trade Centre (ITC)**

19. Ms. Michelle Lau-Burke, Officer in Charge ITC Representative New York a.i
20. Ms. Riefqah Jappie, Senior Advisor
21. Mr. Ikuru Nogami, Advisor

**International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITLLDCs)**

22. Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Director General

**International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**

- 23. Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, Representative of the ITU New York Office
- 24. Ms. Youlia Lozanova, Senior Analyst
- 25. Mr. Rui Wan, Liaison Officer

**Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)**

- 26. Ms. Yunjin Kim, Associate Expert
- 27. Mr. Bingzhuo Li, Legal Officer

**Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)**

- 28. Mr. Kava Katjomuise, Senior Economic Affairs Officer

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

- 29. Ms. Frida Youssef, Chief, Transport Section
- 30. Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation
- 31. Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer
- 32. Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

- 33. Ms. Oksana Leshchenko, Senior Advisor
- 34. Ms. Tahmina Anvarova, Strategic Management Specialist

**United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

- 35. Ms. Toni-Shae Aqeelah Freckleton, Chief of New York Office

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

- 36. Ms. Mara A. Murillo-Correa, Senior Programme Officer

**United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**

- 37. Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director
- 38. Mr. Dennis Nkala, Chief, Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs
- 39. Ms. Sumeeta Banerji, UN System Affairs Specialist
- 40. Ms. Minerva Novero, Policy Specialist

**United Nations Population Fund (UNPF)**

- 41. Ms. Petal Thomas, Multilateral Affairs Specialist

**UN Women**

- 42. Ms. Aina Iiyambo, Director

**World Bank**

- 43. Ms. Joelle El SAWALHI, Focal Point for Countries in Special Situations

**World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

- 44. Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig, Senior Counsellor
- 45. Mr. Jong Myong Sok, Programme Officer

**World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**

- 46. Mrs. Zoritsa Urosevic, Representative of the UNWTO to the UN at Geneva and Head of Office
- 47. Mr. Samiti Siv, Programme Officer

**World Customs Organization (WCO)**

- 48. Ms. Vyara Filipova, Technical Officer
- 49. Ms. Monica Mpairwe, Technical Officer

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

- 50. Mr. Rasul Baghirov, Head of Country Strategy and Support unit
- 51. Mr. Tin Tin Sint, Program Specialist

**World Trade Organization (WTO)**

- 52. Mr. Raul Torres, Development Division

## Annex II: Agenda

### **Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs**

**15 November 2023, 9:00 am-12:00 pm (New York time)**

#### **Virtual Teams Meeting**

#### *Agenda*

9:00 am – 9:20 am	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and opening remarks by Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Secretary-General of LLDC3 (Chair of the opening session)</li><li>• Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the UN, Chair of the LLDC Group</li></ul>
9:20 am – 11:45 am	<b>Session on the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs (LLDC3) by Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS (Chair of the session)</li><li>• Priorities for the new Programme of Action for the LLDCs: presentations by participating organizations</li></ul>
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	<b>AOB and Closing Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closing Remarks by Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS</li></ul>



## Annex III: Statements provided by participants

### 1. International Trade Centre (ITC)

ITC emphasizes the next Programme of Action for LLDCs must maintain strong trade and private sector angle, especially centring the voice of micro-, small and medium sized enterprises.

At ITC, we aim to strengthen the capacity of small businesses in LLDCs to overcome limitations related to trade and transport challenges. Our LLDCs strategy prioritizes a number of areas including:

- Economic diversification into emerging, high value, niche sectors
- Strengthening the capacity of small businesses to access markets
- Promoting digital transformation, digital skills and capacity-building and
- Supporting climate resilience among small businesses.

ITC continues to be committed to supporting LLDCs. In Jan-June 2023, 28% of ITC delivery was in LLDCs.

This year we also partnered with OHRLLS to host several preparatory events for LLDC3.

- SDG Action Weekend side event “Regaining lost ground in the LLDCs: The role of trade and digitalization” on Sunday, 17 September at UNHQ.
- We dedicated sessions of our flagship event, World Export Development Forum in Mongolia, to discussing the issues that LLDCs face, including hosting Private Sector Consultations focused on Landlocked Developing Countries. Further, OHRLLS organized LLDC National Focal Points meetings in the margins of WEDF (<https://www.un.org/ohrrls/events/lldc-national-focal-points-meeting-margins-world-export-development-forum-wedf>)

As we prepare for the LLDCs Conference, I’d like to share a few ways ITC can support LLDCs:

#### **Trade Facilitation**

The Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP II) aims to promote economic growth in the East African Community (EAC) through private sector development and export promotion. It seeks to enhance sustainable and inclusive intra-African trade, pan-African trade, and trade with the European Union (EU). MARKUP II will address trade barriers, value addition, compliance, trade facilitation, investment, technology transfer, and institutional support. **Key consideration is to connect LLDCs in EAC to intra-regional trade opportunities.**

#### **Climate change**

Our work allows small businesses in LLDCs to ensure business continuity through supporting climate resilience while mitigating climate change impacts.

We will be at COP28 and plan to use this platform at the Trade House (Joint pavilion – WTO, ITC and UNCTAD) to bring together MSMEs and policy makers to amplify their voice on climate and the importance of a just transition.

## Gender

Through our SheTrades Hubs in the Mongolia and Rwanda we support women's economic empowerment in LLDCs. ST Hub in Mongolia was launched in June 2023 WEDF

## Digitalization

ITC work emphasizes the importance of digital transformation for small business in LLDCs. Adopting digital technologies and implementing online services could have a particularly empowering impact on LLDCs, which currently face high costs when it comes to achieving digital connectivity.

Three key barriers that particularly hamper LLDCs' trading opportunities, and digitalization can make a difference.

- First, we have the distances involved in getting goods and services to markets. Online markets allow buyers and sellers to find one another efficiently and settle terms of trade, reducing unknowns and risks for both buyer and seller.
- Second, we have onerous customs procedures and other administrative hurdles at the border. Again, digitalization can help, such as by providing greater transparency around key processes, and helping harmonize and simplify them. This makes trade far more predictable—a must for smaller businesses—and lowers costs. Given that LLDCs, by virtue of their geography, are often surrounded by multiple neighbors, these changes can help in getting their products across multiple borders.
- Third, we have the challenges of transport, such as poor or limited transport infrastructure. Marketplaces can help lower high average transport costs, and digitalization can make transport arrangements more predictable and reliable.

Digitalization can help MSMEs in LLDCs well-documented challenge in accessing finance. Having more reliable and secure information on small businesses' identity, activities, and financial information can help make finance more available and less costly. For instance, MSMEs can build up online business profiles, which can be shared with innovative providers of capital.

But for these changes to happen, we need greater investments in digital infrastructure, and these require an enabling policy environment that supports creating a strong digital trade ecosystem. This doesn't just mean investing in the physical infrastructure that digital connectivity requires, but also in building up the skills and capabilities of small businesses so they can leverage the full benefits that online trade has to offer.

As part of the **Working Group on MSME Connectivity within the Broadband Commission**, we recommended that governments, private sector partners, and international development agencies make issues affecting access to digital networks and services a priority, including in next year's Global Digital Compact. LLDCs should receive particular attention, given the important contribution that better use of digital connectivity could make to their economies, and especially in light of the barriers they still face. (report linked here: <https://www.broadbandcommission.org/working-groups/msmes/>)

## 2. International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

ITU very much looks forward to LLDC3. We are working on a publication on connectivity and LLDCs, and plan a call for commitments for LLDCs leveraging the Partner 2 Connect platform. Will be holding a Broadband Commission meeting there too, as was mentioned by the USG.

Top priorities, we believe, to help LLDCs accelerate progress on the SDGs are universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. 2.6 billion people have never ever been connected to the internet and many more don't have meaningful access – the current threshold for being considered connected is having accessed the internet once in the past three months. In September, with UNDP and other partners we released an SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda that notes that 70% of SDG targets can be accelerated through greater leveraging of digital technologies, including AI. To benefit from the AI revolution it is necessary to be part of the digital revolution. However, without direct access to the undersea cables, landlocked countries face greater costs for internet connections. The Doha Programme of Action has many digital references, many of which we believe would benefit LLDCs too.

More specifically, looking at the priority areas in the Vienna Programme of Action,

Priority 2:Infrastructure development and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to strengthen the focus on digital infrastructure and the policy, legal and governance frameworks for investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the digital space</li> </ul>
Priority 3:International trade and trade facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could include a focus on digital goods and services and cross-border data flows</li> </ul>
Priority 4:Regional integration and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to strengthen the focus on regional and global harmonization across policy areas</li> </ul>
Priority 5:Structural economic transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could include a focus on building digital economies and societies</li> </ul>
Priority 6:Means of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to add a focus on digital enablers and building local capacity in key areas such as innovation, policy implementation and law enforcement</li> </ul>

Further info (from our responses to the LLDC South South Cooperation questionnaire):

What are your suggestions for making a new program of action attractive for South-South cooperation or support from Southern countries and their institutions?

Integrate an emphasis on –

- Locally led and owned, people-centred and sustainable assistance approaches to digital transformation of economies and societies centred around countries' needs and own priorities;
- Policy acceleration to equip countries with legal and policy frameworks enabling the achievement of SDGs;
- Building local human and institutional capacities in key transversal areas such as governance (national and local) and law enforcement, innovation and entrepreneurship;
- Regional harmonization beyond the transport sector;
- Open innovation as a driver of developing digital economies; and
- Science, technology and innovation to accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

2. What are your suggestions for making a new program of action attractive for triangular cooperation or support from development partners from the North and their institutions?

Narratives around –

- People-centered development approaches;
- Twin green and digital transformation;
- Gender mainstreaming and diversity angle

in policies and development initiatives.

### 3. World Customs Organization (WCO)

The World Customs Organization (WCO) believes that transit policy issues and trade facilitation should be kept as priorities in the next programme of action for LLDCs and the WCO stands ready to support the Customs administrations of LLDCs and transit developing countries in these areas.

We consider that efficient, harmonized, automated, paperless Customs procedures represent the soft infrastructure that can boost transport connectivity and increase countries' economic competitiveness.

This is in line with the three regional outcome documents, which highlight the importance of efficient implementation by LLDCs and transit countries of agreements and initiatives that promote trade facilitation, such as the WTO TFA and the WCO RKC; the importance of effective and efficient transit transport corridors that are the backbone of transportation networks; the need to improve transit, and the need for innovative approaches to treat in a holistic manner the issues of transit, transport and trade facilitation; as well as the need to enhance LLDCs' efforts to integrate into e-commerce.

In October 2023, the main WCO committee responsible for matters in the area of procedures and facilitation, the Permanent Technical Committee, had a discussion with regard to the preparatory process and outcome document of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs, and also highlighted the importance of addressing Customs transit challenges in a holistic manner through efficient implementation of all relevant instruments and tools.

With regard to the proposed priorities, some key aspects in the area of trade facilitation are transparency and predictability; border agency cooperation; freedom of transit; and coordination through the NCTF. What is key in the area of transit is efficient exchange of information through automated systems; efficient guarantee systems – regional or international; and efficient security measures, such as e-seals, which need to follow a regional approach to achieve maximum effectiveness.

And once again, we are committed to supporting LLDCs to implement the global standards in these areas.

We can also provide support to the Customs administrations of LLDCs on e-commerce, use of advanced technologies by Customs, gender equality and diversity, disaster relief, and Green Customs, the last two falling under the broader area of climate change.

Last, the WCO will hold a pre-conference event in the end of February 2024 in Douala, Cameroon. This will be a regional workshop for the Members of the West and Central Africa region on transit interconnectivity and the use of regional transit guarantees.

#### **4. World Investment Promotion Organization (WIPO)**

Statement by Mr. Chi Dung Duong, Director, Division for Least Developed Countries, RNDS, WIPO at Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

Mr. Chair,

Dear Colleagues,

We highly appreciate the update on preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs (LLDC3) and for the opportunity to share our views on the priorities for the new Programme of Action for the LLDCs.

As a UN specialized agency, which leads the development of a global intellectual property (IP) ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has been contributing continuously to the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for 2014 – 2024.

Despite the efforts of LLDC Member States and the international community, significant challenges remain in LLDCs in science, technology and innovation, which are crucial for their structural transformation, economic growth and sustainable development.

During the implementation period of the Vienna Programme of Action, the LLDCs lagged in the main innovation indicators compared to other world economies.

As Member States stated at the regional review meetings held this year, the progress on structural transformation by many LLDCs has been slow during the last decade.

Thus, the outcome documents of the regional reviews call upon LLDCs to take concrete initiatives to foster productive capacities and facilitate structural transformation, such as enabling policies to enhance science, research and development, innovation capacity.

They also urge the international community to support LLDCs to further promote economic diversification, focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment in non-traditional sectors.

For instance, it was highlighted that over 90% exports from African LLDCs have remained largely concentrated in raw materials and the contribution of African LLDCs to global trade remained flat at around 0.2%. The merchandise exports of Latin American LLDCs and many Asian LLDCs remain predominantly composed of primary products.

IP can be a powerful tool for growth and sustainable development and a catalyst for innovation, business, investment, and economic development in LLDCs.

The new Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries may benefit from encompassing specific support actions for the LLDCs, aimed at facilitating the creation of enabling IP ecosystems to promote innovation and creativity and empowering people, businesses and communities to leverage IP effectively. This would be important support for promoting science, technology and innovation essential for structural transformation, as well as for the economic diversification in the LLDCs.

WIPO's submission to the recent Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for the Decade 2014 – 2024, contained the specific suggestions for the new Programme of Action for LLDCs for the next decade.

It includes the following support action areas, aimed to facilitate the use of IP as a powerful tool for growth and sustainable development in LLDCs:

1. Assisting LLDCs in developing inclusive, balanced and effective intellectual property ecosystems for promoting innovation and creativity;
2. Enhancing support services or mechanisms to enable intellectual property stakeholders in LLDCs to leverage intellectual property successfully for economic growth, diversification, business competitiveness and sustainable development;
3. Increasing intellectual property knowledge and skills in LLDCs.

We look forward to participating actively in the preparation of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs, with particular focus on supporting the efforts of the LLDCs aimed at promoting the use of IP, innovation

and creativity for structural economic transformation, productive capacity development and economic diversification.

Thank you.