



Closing Remarks

By

Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox,

**Acting High Representative for
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries and Small Island Developing States**

at

**The Inaugural meeting of the LLDCs National Focal Point
Network**

**Theme: Towards accelerated implementation of the VPoA
and building coherence with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable
development: The role of National Focal Points**

10:00am 16-17 June 2022

Venue: Palais des Nations – Room XXI – Geneva

Distinguished National Focal Points of landlocked developing countries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the conclusion of this first National Focal Points Meeting for the Group of LLDCs.

Thank you all for an engaging dialogue on how to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Your active role is critical in operationalizing paragraph 74 of the VPoA that calls LLDCs to mainstream the VPoA into their national and sectoral development strategies and to establish relevant national coordination mechanisms.

As shared in this meeting the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action has some key deliverables that are being supported by the UN and international organizations in partnership with governments, the private sector and multilateral and regional development banks. It is important that LLDCs utilize the Roadmap as much as possible.

You have also heard from organizations who have highlighted the nature of their support towards implementation of the VPoA. I encourage you to identify opportunities for support and reach out to the organizations to request the support.

As discussed during this meeting, there is need for accelerated implementation of the VPoA in coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as other global and regional development frameworks.

Your role as focal points is very important in facilitating the strengthening of coherence and coordination of the implementation and follow up of the Vienna Programme of Action, with these global frameworks and in supporting development of strategies and policies that can accelerate resilience building and promote a post-COVID-19 sustainable recovery.

It is important to incorporate the VPoA perspectives when developing, implementing and monitoring the other development frameworks including at regional and sub-regional levels.

We are all encouraged that many LLDCs have been participating in the Voluntary National Reviews for the 2030 Agenda – 10 in 2020; 9 in 2021; and 7 LLDCs in the

upcoming HLPF session. It is important for LLDCs to also incorporate the VPoA perspectives when conducting the Voluntary National Reviews.

Distinguished National Focal Points,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Our network of LLDCs National Focal Points will be important in fostering peer-learning and exchange of best practices on LLDCs-related issues. We shall aim to have an annual in-person meeting of the National Focal Points - funds and situations permitting. We shall also keep engaged virtually so that we can share information and experiences.

The Third UN Conference on LLDCs will be held in 2024. We are starting the preparatory process later this year and part of the process is preparing the national reports. I encourage you to actively participate in this process and make a meaningful contribution to the development of the new programme of action for LLDCs.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to thank all of you once again for your engagement.

My great appreciation goes to the interpreters for their important support to our meeting.

The important takeaways from this meeting, will be captured in a summary report, which will be shared with you.

Let me end by assuring you that UN-OHRLLS remains at your disposal to provide all necessary substantive support to National Focal Points.

Thank you.