



Republic of Botswana



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN-OHRLS

HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT AT: UN Climate Change Conference COP27

Strengthening Climate Action in landlocked developing countries: Experiences on adaptation and mitigation

15:30hrs – 17:00hrs, Wednesday 9 November 2022

Tajikistan Pavilion

Concept Note

Climate change impacts and variability in landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are deeply interlinked and require multifaceted responses and solutions. The 32 LLDCs that have a total population of more than 560 million inhabitants (7 per cent of the global population), are dispersed in four world's regions: Africa (16 LLDCs); Asia (10 LLDCs), Europe (4 LLDCs) and Latin America (2 LLDCs). LLDCs are sovereign states that lack direct territorial access to the sea. Their remoteness and isolation from world markets, additional border crossings, cumbersome transit procedures, inefficient services and poor infrastructure cause LLDCs to incur substantially higher transport and trade transaction costs compared to other countries. Approximately 54 per cent of LLDCs' land is classified as dryland and 60 per cent of the population in LLDCs are located in these drylands, making them more vulnerable to impact of climate change and climate induced environmental degradation.

In addition, some of the LLDCs have a large proportion of their land under mountainous terrain and are impacted by melting of glaciers. For instance, rising temperatures as a result of climate change is accelerating the rate of glacial melt in the mountainous regions of Bhutan, Nepal, Tajikistan, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Long term threats from glacial melt include stressed water supply to support agricultural irrigation, fisheries, and navigation, while the meltwater lakes left behind risk collapsing in sudden and catastrophic glacial lake outflow flooding.

In the 32 LLDCs, issues such as droughts, floods, cyclones, glacial lake outflow flooding, landslides and erratic weather bring about loss of lives and livelihoods, damages to infrastructure, settlements and to other social and economic assets. These disasters often

come in succession and trigger other calamities like famine, disease outbreaks, loss of biodiversity and environmental services, and forced migration.

Because of their location, level of development, and greater reliance on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, LLDCs continue to be disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. In arid and semi-arid areas, climate impacts on agricultural productivity may be compounded by the limited water availability. LLDCs are also likely to be disproportionately impacted from the transboundary nature of climate change since they are dependent on imports and on cross-border trade for their food and economic security.

LLDCs' structural vulnerabilities, development challenges and limited productive capacities expose them disproportionately to the severe negative impacts of climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these vulnerabilities, making it harder to make considerable progress towards the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA) and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It has also highlighted the need to enhance LLDCs' capacity to address climate change.

Since much of LLDCs' environmental resources and ecosystems (such as rivers, lake basins, and forests) are shared with other countries, transboundary approaches are important to consider by LLDCs since actions taking place in neighbouring countries can have direct or cascading transboundary climate implications for them and vice versa. Regional cooperation mechanisms to address the challenges of climate change and COVID-19 should also be considered, and LLDCs should play a leading role in the implementation and furthering of regional integration.

Also, whilst support and funding has been provided for climate change adaptation and mitigation in LLDCs, there remains a huge financing gap to bridge given the limitations on donor funding, capacity constraints and precarious debt situation of some LLDCs. Climate-sensitive public sector programming and budgeting; mainstreaming climate change into post-COVID-19 recovery and stimulus packages; and creating conducive conditions for more private sector participation in climate change for LLDCs are some of the options that LLDCs could consider for a sustainable future.

Objective of the event

This event will examine climate challenges faced by LLDCs. Policy makers and other stakeholder representatives from LLDCs will discuss and share experiences, good practices and innovative financing and solutions to accelerate climate change adaptation and mitigation action to accelerate sustainable development in LLDCs. Speakers from LLDCs will highlight their priorities for COP 27 and required financial and technical capacities.

Expected Outcomes

This High-level Event is expected to increase awareness on the challenges faced by LLDCs from climate change; successful solutions and approaches that can be adopted, adapted or scaled up in LLDCs.

Participants

All participants welcome from government, civil society and general public from LLDCs and other Member States, officials of the United Nations, UN agencies, development partners, multi-lateral institutions, civil society, private sector, academia, and NGOs.

Format

The meeting will be held over 1,5 hour and will include Ministers from LLDCs, who will present key issues and experiences. The presentations will focus on practical solutions and initiatives that can be scaled up to address climate change.

Organizers – The event is being organized by UN-OHRLLS, Government of Tajikistan, Government of Botswana and the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO).

Language

The event will be held in English.