



## Concept Note

### 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*

**16-17 June 2022**

**Room XXI, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)**

#### 1. Background

The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA) was adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on LLDCs held in November 2014. The VPoA provides a comprehensive framework to tackle LLDCs' special challenges and improve their integration into the global economy through six mutually reinforcing priority areas: transit, infrastructure development, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation, and means of implementation. The VPoA is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Member States Governments are invited to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies for its effective implementation. The VPoA also encourages LLDCs to establish national coordination mechanisms, where appropriate. Paragraph 66 of the VPoA stresses that primary responsibility of development and progress rests with the Member States. It is in this regard that OHRLLS has undertaken to establish the National Focal Point Network for LLDCs to facilitate effective implementation of the VPoA at national level as mandated by the VPoA. The establishment of the LLDCs National Focal Points Network also follows the successful establishment of the same network for the LDCs and SIDS Groups.

The High-level Midterm review (MTR) on the implementation of the VPoA held in December 2019 called for action to accelerate the implementation of the VPoA. Strengthening of coherence, coordination and monitoring at the national, regional and global levels is fundamental to accelerating implementation. The role of national focal points is therefore important in spearheading national level implementation and in fostering coherence in the implementation of the National Development Plan, the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant development frameworks at national level.

To further accelerate the implementation of the VPoA, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of LLDCs adopted a Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in September 2020. The Roadmap provides a comprehensive map of activities and responsibilities of the wider UN family and other international and regional organizations in seven thematic priority action areas of importance to the sustainable development of the LLDCs including: transit, trade and transport facilitation, Energy and ICT, Structural economic transformation, Cooperation between LLDCs and

transit countries, Means of implementation and international support, COVID-19 and other areas. The successful implementation of the Roadmap is greatly dependent on the UN and other international support by LLDCs at national level. In the Roadmap, UN-OHRLLS has committed to establish the National Focal Point Network with the support of the United Nations Residents Coordinators.

## 2. Aims and objectives

The aim of the meeting is to launch the network of LLDCs' national focal points with a view to enhancing coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels on LLDCs-related issues and foster peer-learning and exchange of best practices on the implementation and follow up of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global frameworks.

The specific objectives of the National focal point inaugural meeting are to:

- Launch the network of LLDCs' national focal points and discuss strategies to strengthen their role to facilitate the implementation of the VPoA as well as build coherence with the National Development Plans and other international development agendas.
- Share experiences on the implementation of the VPoA priorities and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Sustainable development goals (SDGs) including on mainstreaming the VPoA and SDGs into national development processes as well as their implementation and follow up.
- Share information on UN Development System and the role of The UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) in supporting national efforts to facilitate implementation of the VPoA.
- Discuss the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the VPoA and strategies to enhance implementation and follow-up.
- Adopt the Terms of Reference for the National Focal Point Network.

## 3. Participation

The meeting will be attended by government designated National Focal Points and selected senior government officials, representatives of UN Resident Coordinator Offices from LLDCs, relevant UN agencies including regional commissions. **Organizers**

The meeting will be organized by UN-OHRLLS.

## 4. Outcome

An official summary of the discussions will be issued as an outcome of the meeting.

## 5. Registration

Registration is required to attend the meeting. **Everyone, who is planning on participating in person in Geneva in CR XXI at UNOG and require a UNOG badge to enter the premises,** is requested to urgently complete the registration through the Indico system of UNOG:<https://indico.un.org/event/1000989/>