



Concept Note

Enhancing the role of the private sector in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

Virtual Briefing

Organized by

Kazakhstan, Chair of the Group of LLDCs, UN-OHRLLS in close collaboration with International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

03 December 2020, 11:00-12:45HRS

1. Background

The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (VPoA) highlights that renewed and strengthened partnerships with the private sector is critical to the successful implementation of the VPoA. The role of the private sector is highlighted in almost all the priority areas of the VPoA including: improving transit facilitation and establishing efficient transit transport regimes; infrastructure development and maintenance; trade facilitation reforms, structural economic transformation and in the overall implementation of the VPoA. The recently adopted Political Declaration reiterates the role of the private sector in the implementation of the VPoA and urges LLDCs to encourage private sector development and greater cooperation with the private sector. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the role of the private sector to support the international community's endeavors to tackle economic, social and environmental challenges. The LLDCs also require the partnership and support of the private sector in COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The Chair of the Group of LLDCs and OHRLLS have ongoing efforts to encourage greater interaction, sharing of experience and cooperation between the LLDCs and the private sector. In cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation ("the Alliance"), the Chair of the Group of LLDCs and OHRLLS plan to organize an interactive briefing session of the Group of LLDCs on enhancing private sector participation in the implementation of the VPoA.

2. Aim of the event

The event will highlight how the ICC and the Alliance are working with the private sector to promote the implementation of the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda and in addressing the impact of COVID-19. Particular focus will be on mobilization of private sector support in trade facilitation and interventions to strengthen private sector implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through supply chain resilience and capacity building for Small and Medium Enterprises. Specific case examples of effective practices will be shared and possible areas of partnerships will be identified.

3. Participation

The briefing will be attended by ambassadors and experts from LLDCs.

4. Format of the event

The meeting will be virtual and will be held for one and half hours back to back with the LLDC Ambassadorial meeting. The event will feature presentations by the ICC and the Alliance and will be followed by an interactive dialogue with members of the LLDC Group.

5. Organizers

The briefing is organized by Chair of LLDCs, Kazakhstan and UN-OHRLLS in close in collaboration with International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

6. Possible Outcomes

The briefing is intended to strengthen the relationship between LLDC member states and the International Chamber of Commerce and its subsidiary and affiliate entities, including the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation. Following the briefing, member-states are invited to undertake bilateral discussions with ICC and the Alliance to identify concrete interventions and advocacy activities which enhance private sector implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

At the request of the Chair of LLDCs, OHRLLS in consultation with 40 UN system entities and offices, and other international and regional organizations prepared a Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in the remaining five years. The Roadmap has a detailed mapping of activities and tangible deliverables to be supported by the wider UN system and other international and regional organizations towards the accelerated implementation of the VPoA. The Roadmap was adopted by LLDC Ministers at the Annual Meeting of the LLDCs Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on 23 September 2020. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/roadmap-implementation-vpoa-lldc>

The Roadmap is a live document that can be updated to reflect new projects. It is hoped that the proposed event of the LLDCs and the ICC and Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation could result in identification of concrete projects that have tangible activities that can be included under the framework of the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of VPoA.

Annex

About the International Chamber of Commerce

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of 45 million businesses worldwide. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, ICC promotes international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services.

As the only private sector organization Permanent Observer status to the United Nations General Assembly, ICC works to shape global dialogues on a broad range of public policy issues. ICC is also guiding governments and international organizations on the global response to the coronavirus pandemic – encompassing engagement on issues such as trade policy, access to vaccines, sovereign debt relief and the effects of the crisis on small businesses.

About the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (the Alliance) is a public-private partnership for trade-led growth. It is led by the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum and the Center for International Private Enterprise in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The Alliance's work is designed to help governments in developing and least developed countries implement the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). It brings together governments and businesses as equal partners to identify trade facilitation issues such as unnecessary red-tape at borders, and design and implement targeted reforms that deliver commercially quantifiable results. The Alliance is supported by the governments of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany and Denmark, and works with private sector partners from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the world's largest multinationals such as BASF, DHL, FCA Group, Maersk, UPS and Walmart.