



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



UN-OHRLLS

Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries

Theme: Enhancing equitable, affordable and inclusive transport connectivity as a driver for sustainable and resilient economies

Yerevan, Armenia

14-15 December 2023

Venue : Seven Visions The Dvin Hotel Yerevan

Draft Programme

DAY 1 (14 December 2023)	
9:15 am - 9:45 am	Registration
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Opening Session: The role of transport connectivity in promoting sustainable and resilient development <i>Venue - Dvin Music Hall</i> Master of Ceremony: Mr. Davit Grigorian <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia• Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), Secretary General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs• Honorable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Botswana and Global Chair of the LLDC Group
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Coffee Break <i>Venue – Dvin Music Hall lobby</i>
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Official photo ceremony <i>Venue – Dvin Music Hall</i>

11:00 am - 1:00 pm	<p>Ministerial Level Exchange on the strategic importance of transport connectivity for the next programme of action for the LLDCs</p> <p><i>In this session the ministers and other high-level participants will share their national and regional experiences on progress made, challenges and opportunities in improving transport connectivity, the lessons learned in the past decade and they will highlight the recommendations for enhanced connectivity and for a transformative programme of action for LLDCs in the next decade.</i></p> <p>CHAIR: H.E. Mr. Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia</p> <p>Statements by Ministers and Heads of delegations and inter-governmental organizations following a speakers' list.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key achievements in enhancing transport connectivity in the past decade?</i> • <i>What were the challenges faced and lessons learned?</i> • <i>What key recommendations including policies and tangible initiatives are necessary in the next programme of action for LLDCs?</i>
1:00 pm -2:00 pm	Lunch Break
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Session 1. Lessons learned on transport connectivity during the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the lessons learned on promoting transport connectivity in the framework of the implementation of the VPoA. It will also provide recommendations on measures/initiatives which could be pursued for achieving accelerated progress in the fields of transit transport and connectivity in LLDCs, in the context of the next 10-year Programme of Action for LLDCs.</i></p> <p>CHAIR: H.E. Mr. Narayan Prakash Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal</p> <p>Keynote speech: Mr. Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat (PS) of the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA</p>

	<p>Panel Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS • Mr. Nurjan Raqmet, Head of Unit of International organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan • Mrs. Irene Bwalya Muloshi Tembo, Chief Planner, Ministry of Transport and Logistics, Zambia • Mr. Roel Janssens, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key achievements and best practices experienced in the implementation of the VPoA in the areas of transit transport and connectivity?</i> • <i>What are the key challenges encountered in the implementation of the goals and commitments of the VPoA in the areas of transit transport and connectivity including in the face of global crises that emerged during the implementation period of the VPoA?</i> • <i>Based on the lessons learned in the implementation of VPoA, what kind of measures/initiatives could be pursued for achieving accelerated progress in the fields of transit transport and connectivity in LLDCs, in the context of the next 10-year programme of action for LLDCs?</i>
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Coffee Break
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	<p>Session 2. Building resilient infrastructure connectivity for sustainable development of LLDCs</p> <p><i>Noting the ever increasing and detrimental impacts and consequences of climate change and other crises such as COVID 19 and geo-political tensions affecting supply chains and service delivery continuity, the session will focus on how to build and maintain adaptable and sustainable connectivity through resilient infrastructure.</i></p> <p>CHAIR: Hon. Mr. Felix Tapiwa Mhona, Minister, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development, Zimbabwe</p> <p>Keynote speech: Ms. Carolin Geginat, Country Manager for Armenia, World Bank Group</p> <p>Panel Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gnel Sanosyan, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Armenia • Mr. ALLABAYE, Jean François, Directeur des etudes de la

	<p>planification et suivi évaluation, Chad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chanthasack Bottaphanith, Deputy Director General Department of Planning and Finance Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, Lao PDR <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Which innovative and sustainable, low-emissions climate-resilient infrastructure initiatives that have been successfully implemented are replicable in landlocked developing countries?</i> • <i>What are the critical gaps in current practices that need to be addressed in the coming years in making infrastructure disaster resilient?</i> • <i>What are the potential sources of finance for disaster resilient infrastructure including risk transfer mechanisms, and reconstruction and recovery of key infrastructure sectors after disasters?</i>
<p>19:00-21:00</p>	<p>Official Reception</p>
<p>DAY 2 (15 December 2023)</p>	
<p>09:30 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Session 3: Deepening regional integration through inclusive transport connectivity</p> <p><i>This session aims to explore collaboration opportunities, propose solutions and highlight best practices for promoting deeper regional integration by improving transport connectivity and streamlining transit and cross-border processes. Additionally, it will delve into the pivotal role of digital technologies in facilitating trade and reducing trade-related costs.</i></p> <p>CHAIR: Hon. Ms. Vera Kamtukule, Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Malawi</p> <p>Keynote speech: Christine Weigand, UN Resident Coordinator a.i</p> <p>Panel Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mamadou Sow, Director General, Ministry of Transport and infrastructure, Mali • Mr. Orapeleng Mosigi, Director, Transport Policy and Planning, Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Botswana

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Battushig Zanabazar, Deputy Director General of the Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Mongolia • Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Head of the Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD • Charle Malas, Advisor to the Minister of Economy, Armenia <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key challenges and barriers that LLDCs face in achieving seamless transport connectivity with their transit coastal counterparts, and how can these challenges be addressed to promote deeper regional integration? What are some of the best practices?</i> • <i>How can development partners, regional organizations and the private sector collaborate with LLDCs to support efforts in enhancing transport connectivity and facilitating the movement of goods and people across borders, thereby promoting intra-regional economic growth and development?</i> • <i>What role do digital technologies, such as digital customs systems, electronic trade facilitation platforms and mobile payment systems, play in improving transport connectivity for LLDCs, and how can these technologies be leveraged to reduce trade-related costs and streamline cross-border trade processes within the region?</i>
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Coffee Break
11:15 am – 12:45 pm	<p>Session 4: Transforming global trade and connectivity through digital technologies</p> <p><i>Can digital technologies revolutionize the way LLDCs trade? In this session, experts will share their experiences and views on what is needed for digital technologies to unlock trade to and from LLDCs with a view to informing development priorities for the next Programme of Action on LLDCs.</i></p> <p>CHAIR: Hon. Mr. Celumusa Ndwandwe, Minister, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Eswatini</p> <p>Keynote speech: H.E. Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director General, World Trade Organisation (WTO)</p>

	<p>Panel Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Robert Khachatryan, Minister of High-Tech Industry, Armenia • Ms. Wilma Patricia Frutos Ruiz, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paraguay • Mr. Batyr Annayev, Deputy General Director, Agency of Transport and communications, Tukmenistan • Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director, International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC) <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the main bottlenecks and opportunities to transforming global trade and connectivity through digital technologies in the LLDCs?</i> • <i>How should policies and strategies be designed at the national level in the LLDCs, drawing from real examples, to develop effective foundations for digitalization and to seize the opportunities of digital trade?</i> • <i>How can policies and measures at the regional and multilateral levels unlock digital trade, where is this being successfully achieved, and what is needed from partners to support the LLDCs in this regard?</i>
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break
2:30pm – 3:00pm	<p>Special Event: Briefing on the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13)</p> <p>Speaker: H.E. Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director General, World Trade Organisation (WTO)</p>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Session 5: Strengthening global partnerships for improving transport connectivity and increasing trade in LLDCs</p> <p><i>This session will explore how partnerships involving public and private sector partners can help LLDCs enact appropriate policies and implement suitable projects to achieve sustainable transport and enhanced connectivity despite a challenging global economic environment.</i></p> <p>CHAIR: Hon. Mr. Neo Matjato Moteane, Minister, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lesotho</p> <p>Keynote speech: Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary,</p>

	<p>UNECE</p> <p>Panel Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Marietou Zida, Head of North-South and South-South Cooperation Department, Burkina Faso • Mr. Nodir Khaydarov, Head of the Department of Logistics and International Transport, Ministry of Transport, Uzbekistan • Ms. Natia Natsvlishvili, Resident Representative, UNDP • Mr. Don Lambert, Country Director, Development Bank (ADB) <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the main challenges faced by LLDCs in transit transport connectivity that have the highest impact on their trade and development prospects?</i> • <i>What kind of support LLDCs need to build, upgrade, and maintain their connectivity to optimize their economic and trade potentials?</i> • <i>What are the potentials of the LLDCs to have greater participation in South-South and triangular cooperation?</i> • <i>The available windows of infrastructure finance are far from adequate. What kind of new and innovative infrastructure finance facility could be explored for LLDCs?</i>
	<p>Presentation on the Road to Kigali</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Vahe Gevorgian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Md. Abdul Alim, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN-OHRLLS • Mr. Robert Kayinamura, Deputy Permanent Representative, Rwanda Mission to the UN in New York - Host of LLDC3 <p>Presentation of the Yerevan Statement: Chair’s Summary</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Vahe Gevorgian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Armenia</p>
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<p>The way forward and closing</p> <p>Master of Ceremony: Mr. Davit Grigorian</p>

	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, UNECE• Honorable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Botswana and Global Chair of the LLDC Group• Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), Secretary General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs• H.E. Mr. Tigran Khachatryan, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia
--	--