

MEDIA ADVISORY

Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

Theme: Partnering for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and achieving sustainable development in LLDCs in the era of COVID-19

WHAT: As borders remain closed around the world because of the pandemic, Landlocked Developing Countries, cut off from global markets and direct access to the sea, will meet at the 2020 United Nations General Assembly to review progress in the implementation of the VPoA and identify a new path to meet their development goals since the VPoA is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This Ministerial meeting, organised by the Government of Kazakhstan as Global Chair of the Group of LLDCs, will also commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nation and to enhance global cooperation to achieve SDGs.

WHERE: The Meeting will be hosted virtually. The access link will be provided on [the meeting web page](#).

WHEN: 08.00 -11.00 AM EST, 23 September 2020

WHY: The Ministers are meeting to:

- Review progress in implementing the VPoA for the LLDCs for the decade 2014 to 2024 and identify faced challenges;
- Share knowledge, experiences, and suggest recommendations and opportunities for accelerating the implementation of the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Group will consider the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA, which provides a comprehensive mapping of the activities to be taken by the wider UN family and other international and regional organisations, in seven priority action areas of critical importance to the sustainable development of LLDCs. In view of the COVID-19 outbreak and its unprecedented impact on the global economy, the meeting will also identify recommendations for addressing the impacts.

WHO: Ministers and high-level officials from LLDCs, transit developing countries, development partners, Head of UN system organizations, international and regional organisations.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- **H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and Global Chair of the Group of LLDCs
- **H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir**, President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly
- **Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary General of the United Nations
- **Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States

FURTHER INFORMATION

Meeting Web Page: <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/events/annual-ministerial-meeting-landlocked-developing-countries-foreign-ministers>

Social Media:

For updates on this meeting, please follow our Twitter account [@UNOHRLLS](#)

MEDIA CONTACT

UN-OHRLLS

Mr. Conor O'Loughlin, Head of Advocacy & Outreach, UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States: conor.oloughlin@un.org

NOTE TO EDITOR:

1. About the Vienna Programme of Action

The Vienna Programme of Action is centred upon addressing the challenges faced by LLDCs and aims to contribute to the eradication of poverty stemming from their landlockedness through the implementation of specific actions related to the following priority areas:

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance

- a) Transport infrastructure
- b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation

- a) International trade
- b) Trade facilitation

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation

Priority 6: Means of implementation

For more information, please visit [here](#)

- 2. [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- 3. [List of LLDCs](#)