
Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in the Remaining Five Years

19 August 2020

Background

The Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA) was adopted at the Second UN Conference on LLDCs in Vienna in November 2014. The VPoA is a holistic development plan aimed at addressing the challenges of the LLDCs through actions by the entire international community along six priority areas, namely fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration, structural economic transformation and means of implementation.

A high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly devoted to the Comprehensive High-level Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action was convened in New York on 5-6 December 2019, with the objective to review progress made, identify best practices and lessons learnt as well as remaining obstacles and constraints encountered and the actions needed to accelerate the implementation of the Programme. The Midterm Review adopted a Political Declaration of the Midterm Review (A/RES/74/15, see Annex) which symbolized the renewed commitment of the international community to support the aspirations of the LLDCs on their path towards sustainable development.

A number of key priority areas have been identified during the Midterm Review, including the criticality of infrastructure connectivity, including transport, ICT and energy for LLDCs; the importance of full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; strengthened regional integration and cooperation amongst LLDCs and between LLDCs and transit countries as key to address the challenges of landlockedness; structural economic transformation and productive capacity building; need for enhanced financial resource mobilization; critical importance of enhancing private sector role in the implementation of the VPoA, including through FDI and PPPs; strengthening climate change resilience and response of LLDCs and the need to address conflict; ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and geopolitical uncertainties that threaten to stall progress on regional initiatives. The UN System and other relevant international and regional organizations were specifically called upon to provide and/or strengthen their support to LLDCs in a number of these areas.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has placed greater urgency and importance of addressing the special needs of the LLDCs. The pandemic is much more than a health crisis that is resulting in significant socio-economic impacts affecting the ability of LLDCs to achieve the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the decade 2014-2024 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Concerted efforts are needed to support the LLDCs in tackling the COVID-19 crisis.

Rationale

As the international community embarks on the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and strives to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, greater support for LLDCs is essential. With the adoption of the Political Declaration of the Midterm Review, the challenging phase ahead is one of ensuring that the commitments in favour of LLDCs lead to concrete deliverables that would facilitate implementation of the VPoA and help place the LLDCs closer on their path to achieving the SDGs. This document was prepared at the request of Kazakhstan - the Chair of the Group of LLDCs - to elaborate a roadmap as a visionary document on the practical solutions to implement the VPoA in the remaining five years.

While many efforts have been undertaken by the LLDCs, transit developing countries and development partners and progress has been made in a number of areas of the VPoA, the Midterm Review revealed that the progress made is not enough for LLDCs to achieve the VPoA targets. While maintaining momentum in the areas where good progress has been made, it is critically important to ensure that accelerated action is undertaken in the areas that are lagging behind and that concerted efforts are made to support the LLDCs to address the impacts of COVID-19 crisis. At the same time, lack of financial resources and financing gaps are amongst the main constraints to the full implementation of the VPoA and the achievement of the SDGs in LLDCs.

Overview of the Roadmap

This document is designed to serve as a Roadmap of key actions and activities to mobilize accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs.

The Roadmap has following key components:

- ❖ **Part I. Guiding Principles**
- ❖ **Part II. Call to Action**
- ❖ **Part III. Key Action Areas**
- ❖ **Part IV. Detailed Mapping of Activities of the UN system and other international and regional organizations towards the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action**
- ❖ **Part V. Implementation and follow-up: Looking ahead**

I. Guiding Principles

The UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations will be steered by the following guiding principles in their efforts to implement this Roadmap.

❖ **Enhance Coordination and Synergies**

The UN system will be guided by the spirit of Delivering as One in the implementation of this Roadmap and aim to promote synergies across the UN system, achieve enhanced cooperation and coordination of efforts.

❖ **Leverage the UN Development System Reform**

The UN system will leverage the repositioning of its Development Pillar, in particular the reinvigorated UN Resident Coordinator system to better support LLDCs to accelerate national implementation of the VPoA and realize national sustainable development goals, as well as the revamping of UN regional assets to enhance regional UN support to LLDCs and improve synergies on issues of importance to LLDCs at the national, regional and global levels.

❖ **Integrate LLDC Priorities in Broad Sustainable Development Discussions**

The UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations will advocate and give particular attention to the specific concerns and challenges of LLDCs in all relevant regional and international fora on sustainable development and build coherence in implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and other relevant UN frameworks and processes.

❖ **Strengthen Partnerships**

The UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations will strengthen collaboration and promote innovative partnerships with Governments, private sector, financial institutions and other international and regional organizations and civil society.

❖ **Showcase Good Practices and Promote Experience Sharing**

The UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations will build on existing experiences and leverage lessons learned to showcase good practices that can be replicated in LLDCs and promote the sharing of experiences amongst countries.

II. Call to action and key asks

The following are key asks from policy makers, the private sector, multilateral and regional development banks, and the UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations. Positive progress and response to these calls for action will help address the structural challenges in LLDCs and leverage high-impact opportunities across the priority areas to accelerate the implementation of the VPoA.

Call on policy makers from LLDCs, transit countries and development partners to:

- ❖ Put in place strategies, policies and regulations that create enabling domestic environment for business, investment, trade, digitalization, industrialization, economic growth, climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk management
- ❖ Effectively implement obligations under all relevant international, regional and bilateral agreements to take advantage of opportunities offered by trade and globalization
- ❖ Promote innovative solutions in sectors such as agriculture, transport, ICT, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation, and investments in ocean-based economies (blue economies) and education and skills development
- ❖ Leverage the opportunities provided by regional trade, integration and initiatives and scale up development of regional projects, in particular to develop sustainable, climate- and disaster-resilient transport, energy and ICT infrastructure
- ❖ Mobilize additional domestic public resources to allow further acceleration of the implementation of the VPoA
- ❖ Meet official development assistance (ODA) commitments and support LLDCs to enhance access to new sources of financing
- ❖ Enhance targeted technical and financial support towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the VPoA
- ❖ More actively engage in South-South and Triangular Cooperation and dialogue to increase action on the VPoA priority areas, in particular through financial and technical assistance, transfer of technology and know-how and sharing of experiences and best practices
- ❖ Enhance efforts towards ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Call on the private sector to:

- ❖ Increase domestic and foreign investment in LLDCs, including through engaging in public-private partnerships
- ❖ Scale-up investments in transformative activities in LLDCs, in particular renewable energy and energy efficiency, agriculture, resilient infrastructure, risk-informed investment, manufacturing and sectors that can bring about structural economic transformation, including ocean-based sectors
- ❖ Play greater role in the implementation of the VPoA

Call on multilateral and regional development banks to:

- ❖ Work more closely with the UN system to deliver country-level solutions to LLDCs across the priority areas
- ❖ Make investments and catalyze private finance for addressing the gaps in LLDCs in transport infrastructure, renewable energy, ICT and digital transformation, industrialization, regional integration, climate action, and make strategic investments in ocean-based sectors

Accelerating the work of the UN system and other international and regional organizations to:

- ❖ Advocate, monitor and follow up the implementation of global commitments towards the LLDCs
- ❖ Increase coordinated and targeted capacity-building and technical support and provision of tools for LLDCs to develop focused policies, strategies and mechanisms and create necessary skills to accelerate progress against the specific objectives of the VPoA
- ❖ Support risk reduction efforts and building of resilience in LLDCs to external economic shocks, impacts of climate change, natural, manmade, technological, biological and environmental hazards, and environmental degradation
- ❖ Support LLDCs in dealing with the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and building back better in post COVID-19 era
- ❖ Promote efforts to capture reliable, high-quality and timely data to monitor progress against the specific objectives of the VPoA

III. Key Action Areas

This section highlights priority areas for the LLDCs towards achieving effective implementation of the VPoA and corresponding key actions supported by the UN and other international and regional organizations, in partnership with governments, the private sector and multilateral and regional development banks. Although this Roadmap focuses on the support of the UN system and other relevant regional and international organizations, at the same time the Member States, including LLDCs themselves, transit developing countries as well as donor countries, private sector and international and regional financial institutions are indispensable implementing partners for the actions, activities and deliverables identified in this Roadmap.

The priority areas identified in this Roadmap reflect those areas that require dedicated and urgent focus in order for the VPoA objectives and targets to be achieved, as guided by the outcome of the Midterm Review and the priorities of the VPoA.

LLDC Priority areas	Key action areas
Transit, trade and transport facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1. Strengthen capacity of LLDCs to develop integrated, sustainable, climate- and disaster-resilient transport infrastructure1.2. Enhance facilitation and efficient functioning of cross-border logistics and transit transport systems, including simplified and harmonized border crossing procedures and provide policy, analytical and technical support towards the development, functioning and management of transit transport corridors1.3. Capture data to monitor the specific objectives of the VPoA on transit and transport1.4. Enhance capacity of LLDCs to implement trade facilitation reforms and initiatives and effectively implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement1.5. Assist LLDCs to enhance their participation in international trade1.6. Assist LLDCs in their endeavours to accede to or ratify in a timely fashion, as well as effectively implement relevant international, regional and sub-regional conventions and other legal instruments with respect to transit transport and trade facilitation, including those related to oceans
Energy and ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1. Promote energy efficiency and support LLDCs to expand and upgrade energy infrastructure, scale up projects on cross-border interconnectors and improve access to energy, including clean, sustainable and renewable energy2.2. Support LLDCs to establish ICT infrastructure, applications and services, and build capacity for digital connectivity and application of technology-driven and ICT solutions

Structural Economic Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Encourage public-private dialogue and support private sector development, by enhancing private sector capabilities, as well as improving economic governance and business regulations, especially for MSMEs 3.2. Enhance the capacity of LLDCs to attract and facilitate domestic and foreign investment, including PPPs 3.3. Provide tools, technical assistance and capacity building to LLDCs to formulate policies and strategies aimed at diversifying their economies, adding value to their products and supporting development of productive sectors 3.4. Promote sustainable development of the agriculture sector in LLDCs, including increased agricultural productivity and industrialization of agriculture 3.5. Encourage development of national science, technology and innovation policies and infrastructures in LLDCs and support capacity development of LLDCs in research and innovation
Cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Promote multi-stakeholder dialogues and experience sharing 4.2. Support LLDCs and transit countries in leveraging the opportunities provided by regional initiatives and integration 4.3. Enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the benefit of LLDCs
Means of implementation and international support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Enhance efforts of LLDCs to mobilize adequate domestic and international resources 5.2. Provide technical and capacity-building assistance to strengthen national statistical systems in LLDCs 5.3. Provide technical and capacity-building assistance to LLDCs to derive benefits from relevant international, regional and sub-regional conventions and other legal instruments, including United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
Other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1. Enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts and support resilience building of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural, manmade, technological, biological and environmental hazards and environmental degradation, including desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss, drought and receding glaciers 6.2. Promote the strengthening of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITT for LLDCs) 6.3. Help LLDCs deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis 6.4. Support LLDCs to remove the barriers to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Coordination

7.1. Continue to ensure coordinated follow-up on the implementation of the VPoA and develop, coordinate and utilize stakeholder networks

IV. Detailed Mapping of Activities of the UN system and other international and regional organizations towards the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action

The aim of the Roadmap is also to identify concrete priority activities and deliverables¹ by the UN system agencies and other regional and international organizations towards accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. The activities included in the mapping were identified and submitted by the agencies. The tangible deliverables will be of direct benefit to the LLDCs. It is envisaged that some of the specific deliverables and activities identified in this Roadmap will require dedicated project documents to be developed in order to mobilize funding for their implementation.

This section is not intended to be exhaustive. It remains a living document, to be updated in line with the UN's support to Member States in the identified action areas.

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
TRANSIT, TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT			
1.1. Development of sustainable transport infrastructure	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with ESCAP, ECE, ECA, ECLAC and UN DESA	Provide training to LLDC policy makers on how to promote transport infrastructure connectivity and development/maintenance of climate resilient transport infrastructure (under United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund)	2020-2021
	UN-OHRLLS, AIIB, UN ESCAP	Provide technical support to selected Asian LLDCs to formulate and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects	2020-2021
	UN-OHRLLS, African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), UNECA	Provide technical support and training to selected African LLDCs to formulate, prioritise, mobilise resources and implement viable bankable transport infrastructure projects, including through PPPs	2020-2021
	UNDRR	Mobilize LLDCs to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)	2020+
	ESCAP	Support national policies on sustainable freight transport in selected LLDCs.	2020-2023
	ESCAP	Provide training to strengthen capacity of policymakers in selected North and Central Asia's states to leverage digital transformation and new technologies in enhancing resilience of rail and intermodal transport.	2021-2022

¹ It is recommended to not include regular, recurring and/or ad hoc events, meetings and side events in the Roadmap unless leading to tangible deliverables.

² Where applicable, the organization listed first is considered to be the lead agency.

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	IDLO	<i>Proposal:</i> Provide policy and legal advice on laws applicable to transport infrastructure projects and complementary capacity-building; provide direct legal assistance in the negotiation of contracts relating to transport infrastructure projects with foreign investors and lenders.	TBC
	AIIB	Support and finance infrastructure projects in LLDCs, including project preparation consulting services, focused on road transport development and maintenance and improving climate resilience of road infrastructure. (Obigarm-Nurobod Road Project in Tajikistan, National Road 13 Improvement and Maintenance Project in Lao PDR, Climate Resilience Improvement of National Road 13 South Project in Lao PDR)	Ongoing and planned
	ADB	<p>Improve cross-border and regional transport connectivity of LLDCs, implemented through the subregional programs including Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), and South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC). In transport sector, ADB plans to finance 23 investment projects for \$3,154 million over the period of 2020–2022 to improve transport connectivity (covering roads, railway, airport and logistics) which in turn will improve LLDCs’ link with outside markets, expand their international trade, and support international tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAREC – 18 projects for \$2,485 million: Afghanistan – 3 projects totalling \$195 million for road construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance; Kazakhstan – 6 projects totalling \$1,177 million for road corridor, road construction, (including corridor connecting roads), and railway efficiency; Uzbekistan – 6 projects totalling \$829 million for road construction and reconstruction, and railway electrification; Mongolia – 3 projects totalling \$284 for aimag and soum centers, tourism transport infrastructure development, and logistics center development. • GMS – 1 project for \$32 million: Lao PDR – 1 project totalling \$32 million for Second Northern GMS Transport Network Improvement Project (Phase 2) for the improvement and road safety along the Viet Nam and Lao PDR components of the GMS Northeastern Corridor to help increase international trade. • SASEC – 4 projects for \$637 million: Bhutan – 1 project for \$37 million for SASEC Air Connectivity Project (2021); Nepal – 3 projects for \$600 million, Tribhuvan International Airport Capacity Expansion Sector Development Program (2020), SASEC Highway Enhancement Project (2021), Second SASEC Highway Enhancement Project (2022). 	<p>2020-2022</p> <p>2020-2022</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Various (2020-2022)</p>
	UNIDO	Strengthen LLDCs capacities to establish the legal and institutional frameworks for robust Quality Infrastructure (QI) system.	2020-2024

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	UNECE, ESCWA, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	Newly established International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (web-based GIS Environment) that serves as an innovative platform to finance transport infrastructure projects.	2020-2021
1.2. Cross-border logistics and transit transport systems	UN ESCAP	Provide training to strengthen connectivity through effective economic corridor management, with Mongolia as primary recipient (Party to the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor Programme).	2020-2021
	UNECA	<i>Proposal:</i> Digitalisation of transit corridors: use of state-of-the-art technology in managing transit corridor asset (regional transport corridors)	TBC
	UN-ECLAC	Establish a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators regarding the inland transport corridors used by Bolivia and Paraguay and the main challenges for the international navigation of rivers	2021
	UNCTAD	Support LLDCs in enhancing sustainable transport and logistics systems for trade development and regional integration through; (i) assessing the sustainability performance (economic, social and environmental) of freight transport and logistics sector and building capacities to design, develop and implement tailored sustainable freight transport strategies, (ii) promoting institutional development of transport corridors (transit, economic, etc.) and enhancing their sustainable performance; (ii) strengthening institutional and human capacities to develop and implement Public-Private Partnership (PPP) programme/projects for transport infrastructure and logistics development. Activities to be implemented will take into account the impact of COVID-19 impact and adjusting to the post-COVID19 environment.	2020- 2023
	IRU and UN ECE	Under 5 years MOU and Contribution Agreement between the two organization, implement a first phase towards the full computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR International System) on specific transport corridors including LLDCs	2017-2022
	IRU, in cooperation with UN ECE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitalisation of the TIR procedure (eTIR) (Afghanistan: 2020-2021; Armenia: 2021-2022; Azerbaijan: 2020; Kazakhstan: 2020; Kyrgyzstan: 2020; Mongolia: 2021; North Macedonia: 2021; Tajikistan: 2020; Turkmenistan: 2020; Uzbekistan: 2020) Implementation of Green lines (Afghanistan: 2020-2021; Armenia: 2021-2022; Kyrgyzstan: 2020; Tajikistan: 2020; Turkmenistan: 2020; Uzbekistan: 2020) Facilitate visa issuance for professional drivers of authorized operators, using IRU members' network including TIR national and guaranteeing associations as well as IRU's regional partners working together with the country's competent authorities. (Afghanistan: 2020-2021; Armenia: 2021-2022; Azerbaijan: 2020; Kazakhstan: 2020; 	Various (2020-2022)

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<p>Kyrgyzstan: 2020; North Macedonia: 2021; Tajikistan: 2020; Turkmenistan: 2020; Uzbekistan: 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and expedite administrative process related to electronic exchange of transport documents such as e-permits and eCMR, based on already deployed IRU IT tools (notably ASKTIRweb and IRU's TIR electronic pre-declaration (TIR-EPD). (Afghanistan: 2020-2021; Armenia: 2021-2022; Azerbaijan: 2020; Kazakhstan: 2020; Kyrgyzstan: 2020; North Macedonia: 2021; Tajikistan: 2020; Turkmenistan: 2020; Uzbekistan: 2020) 	
	AfDB	Support the development of at least 3 One Stop Border Posts involving at least one LLDC	2021-2025
	WCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a compendium of best practices in Customs transit Development of guidance on Customs procedures in railway transportation 	2020 2021
	UNECE Sustainable Transport Division with the participation of UNCTAD ASYCUDA / ECE Trade and Economic Cooperation Division / ESCWA, ESCAP, ECLAC and ECA	UNDA project: eTIR International System application: One of the sub projects of the UNDA project is the interconnection of the eTIR International system with national customs systems of contracting parties to the TIR Convention enabling electronic transactions between customs of origin, en route and destination while implementing the TIR Convention.	2020-2021
	UNECE with support of ESCAP and potentially OSCE	Operationalization of Euro-Asian Transport Links and other networks and corridors: Through offering a targeted inter-regional/inter-governmental platform – identify and support implementation of a set of practical and policy-oriented measures that could further strengthen the management of inland transport corridor operationalization between Europe and Asia. Asses the economic value of available international transport corridors and identification of ways through which Euro-Asian inland cargo volumes can be further increased.	2020-2021
	UNECE with support of ECO and IsDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote accession to e-CMR protocol by ECO member States. In doing so ensuring that contracting parties are geographically situated next to each other, thereby forming a transport corridor. Preparing eCMR protocol technical specifications for implementation across all ECO member States. 	2020-2021
1.3. Monitoring of transit and transport indicators	UN ECE and UN-OHRLLS	<u>Proposal:</u> Joint UN Development Account project on quantifying transport costs for LLDCs. Development of a comprehensive methodology to incorporate both soft and hard infrastructure related costs, measure the economic distance to markets and assess efficiency of administrative processes in LLDCs.	2021+

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	ADB	Support implementation of the CAREC corridor performance measurement and monitoring (CPMM) mechanism.	Ongoing
	UN-ECLAC	Develop Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators in Paraguay	2021
	AfDB	Enhance monitoring of transit times and speeds along corridors including LLDCs	TBD
	WCO	Sensitize and encourage LLDCs to conduct the WCO Time Release Study (TRS) along corridors as a tool to monitor and evaluate transit and transport indicators	TBD
	UNECE, ESCWA and ECLAC	UNDA: Development of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators/ SITCIN (ongoing), which will enable policymakers in LLDCs: To assess their country's degree of external economic connectivity in terms of efficiency of inland transport, logistics, trade, customs and border crossing facilitation processes; To evaluate progress in implementing the transport related SDGs (i.e. 2030 Agenda) and commitments under the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs. Current pilot countries: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Jordan and Paraguay. Could be extended with additional LLDCs in a follow-up phase.	2020-2022
1.4. Trade facilitation	UN-OHRLS	Enhance capacity of national Trade Facilitation Committees, through the LLDC National Focal Points network, to build coherence in the implementation and monitoring of the VPoA and TFA	2021+
	WCO	Support LLDCs and transit developing countries in implementing the technical measures of the WTO TFA through the WCO Mercator Programme	2020 - 2024
	UNCTAD	Support LLDCs, in close collaboration with transit partner countries, in implementing trade facilitation reforms, particularly the WTO TFA through: (i) Implementing trade facilitation reforms, including transit measures and relevant international instruments; (ii) Operationalizing and supporting National Trade Facilitation Committees to coordinate and monitor trade facilitation implementation in a Public-Private-Partnership; (iii) Facilitating the establishment of Regional Trade Facilitation Bodies and strategies to focus on common approaches to cross-border trade and transit; (iv) Developing national and Regional Trade Information Portals to boost transparency and efficiency in cross border trade procedures; (v) Preparing coordinated response guidelines for cross border trade in crisis and emergency situations such as COVID-19; and (vi) Working with LLDC groups in UN and WTO etc. to promote the special needs of LLDCs.	2020-2023
	WTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide materials and training programs to help Members have a better understanding of the TFA • Assist Members to complete the required notifications • Help Members find the support they need to implement the TFA. 	Upon request from Members
	IDLO	<u>Proposals:</u>	

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ad hoc legal assistance to LLDCs in policy and legislative review and drafting for WTO FTA implementation (e.g. Articles 3, 5, 10.4 and 10.7) (In accordance with Article 21 WTO FTA). • Support operationalization of the AfCFTA through the development of uniform guidelines for referral of disputes arising from intra-Africa trade, capacity-building to government agencies on the resolution of these disputes, and the creation of a repository of disputes (In accordance with Articles 8 and 11 WTO FTA and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism). 	2020+ 2020+
	AfDB	Provide capacity building and technical assistance on trade facilitation and transport for 8 LLDCs in Africa	Ongoing
	AfDB	Implement the Trade and Transport Facilitation Due Diligence Tool on all AfDB funded transport projects	2020+
	ESCAP	<u>Proposal:</u> Support LLDCs that are parties to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific to fully and digitally implement the WTO TFA.	2020+
	ADB	Regional technical assistance projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening International Food Safety Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in CAREC countries, to improve public health and facilitation of trade in agro-food products. • Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor: Preparing the Modern Agriculture Wholesale Market Development Project, to contribute to the diversification of exports and connection to regional markets for the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. • Better Customs for Better Client Services in CAREC, to assist countries to enhance implementation of the WTO TFA and promote intraregional and inter-subregional capacity building and knowledge sharing on TFA-related customs and trade facilitation areas. • Support development and piloting of the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and its supporting information common exchange IT system. Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Kazakhstan are participating in the pilot phase of CATS. • Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for the Design, Negotiation, Implementation, and Monitoring of Free Trade Agreements involving CAREC countries is under preparation for approval by Q3/Q4 2020 (total amount of \$1.2 million) with implementation period in 2020-2023. • ADB-funded loan for Mongolia's Regional Improvement of Border Services Project further supports implementation of specific WTO TFA activities, by rehabilitating facilities and 	Various

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		providing modern customs equipment to three major border-crossing points, upgrading the Customs Automated Information System, and conducting preparatory work for the establishment of a single-window system for trade-related regulatory requirements.	
	OSCE	<i>Proposal:</i> Support National Trade Facilitation Committees in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan) in (i) implementing their tasks on domestic coordination and implementation of the TFA's provisions (ii) coordinating their work and share best practices among CA countries; (iii) development of an e-platform for sharing of best practices and experiences among CA- NTFCs.	2020-2021
	OLA	Provide policy and legal advice on laws applicable to the legal framework for international trade and investment and complementary capacity-building, such as direct legal assistance in the drafting of elements of the commercial law framework (laws and supporting regulations), training on implementation and use of the legal framework, and developing institutional structures.	Ongoing
1.5. Trade integration	ESCAP	Develop and improve Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) to support LLDCs in negotiating trade agreements for regional integration, as well as to support landlocked LDCs in estimating the impact of LDC graduation on trade.	2018+
	ESCAP	Enhance analytical capacities of trade policymakers (including those in Asia's LLDCs) to channel trade into sustainable development.	2020
	ITC	Provide technical assistance for LLDCs towards addressing trade-related constraints by providing tailor-made solutions through the delivery of country-specific and regional programmes. Focus areas include strengthening the export capacity of enterprises, improving the availability and use of trade intelligence, enhancing business support organizations and policies for the benefit of exporting enterprises in LLDCs. Examples include support the implementation of Uzbekistan's development plans to modernize its economy through leveraging the process of WTO accession (2020-2025); support the development of Nepal's coffee and pashmina sectors (2020-2023); supporting development of the handicraft and souvenir sector in Uganda (2019-2022); value chain development for honey and horticulture sector in Malawi (2019-2022); Improving the international competitiveness of the textile and clothing sector in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (2018-2021); Increase export diversification in Bhutan by improving trade and investment policy formulation (2018-2021).	Ongoing, various
	ITC	Through the READY4Trade project, support the development of intra-regional and international trade in five Central Asian LLDCs, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, by enhancing the transparency of cross-border requirements, removing regulatory and procedural barriers, strengthening business capability to comply	2020-2023

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		with trade formalities and standards as well as by improving cross-border e-commerce. The project targets selected sectors and value chains in each country based on the export potential and accounting for participation of women in the labour force in the sector.	
	ITC	Provide a wide range of stakeholders of trade, particularly MSMEs, business support organizations and policymakers in Eastern Partnership countries including three LLDCs, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova, with an interactive online platform that offers access to trade information that are necessary to do business in the region and with the European Union and training. (EaP Helpdesk project)	2019-2024
	UNEP	Support LLDCs amongst other countries, through the Environment and Trade Hub, through research, capacity-building and policy advisory services across four areas: trade in environmentally sound technologies; governance at trade and environment nexus; green markets and global value chains; reducing the footprint of trade.	Ongoing
	UNDP through cooperation with the EIF	Support institutional strengthening and trade policy development in selected LLDCs	2020-2021
	ESCAP	Assist Bhutan on "Review of Trade Performance, LDC Graduation, WTO accession and Implementation mechanisms for Trade Development" for its Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS).	2020-2021
1.6. Accession, ratification and implementation of legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation, including those related to oceans	IRU, in cooperation with UN ECE	Support accession to the TIR Convention and its practical implementation (Bolivia, Paraguay, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nepal)	Various (2020-2022)
	OLA	Assist LLDCs in their endeavours (i) to accede to and ratify in a timely fashion relevant international conventions related to oceans, including transit transport and trade facilitation, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and legal instruments of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; and (ii) to ensure effective implementation thereto.	Ongoing
ENERGY AND ICT			
2.1. Energy efficiency and access to energy,	IRENA and UN-OHRLLS	Joint substantive report on scaling up renewable energy in LLDCs	2021
	UNEP	Continue to work through the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4A) initiative to broker partnerships and unlock finance to achieve universal access to sustainable energy, supporting LLDCs amongst other countries through this initiative.	Ongoing

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
including renewables	ECA, AUDA, IDEP	Policy dialogues and country compacts with LLDCs on energy and investment planning for enhanced access	Ongoing
	ECA	<i>Proposal:</i> Accelerate private sector investments in clean energy for access and climate action in LLDCs in Africa	TBC
	ECA, DESA, UNDP and AUDA	<i>Proposal:</i> Enhance policy coherence and investment opportunities for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water systems approach in LLDCs in Africa	TBC
	ESCAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP) to support countries in developing national roadmaps to achieve SDG7 and the Paris Agreement, and implement it in at least two LLDCs. Support implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 7 in LLDCs by promoting policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing, compiling and disseminating relevant energy information and data, and helping to link the national and global levels of implementation. 	2020 2021
	ESCAP	Provide capacity building on the evidence-based policy for improving energy access and related socio-economic benefits on the national level, focused on clean cooking, an issue that primarily impacts women and girls.	2021
	ESCAP	Evaluate the potential for enhanced power grid connectivity and cross-border electricity trade in selected LLDCs in the Asia-Pacific region. Connecting power grids of adjoining LLDCs can capitalize on complementarities between countries in terms of energy demand and energy resource availability, particularly wind, solar and hydropower potential.	2021
	UNIDO	Provide integrated and sustainable solutions and policy advice to LLDCs on promoting energy efficiency and delivering renewable energy technologies systems to promote productive activities	2020-2024
	IRENA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce country focused Renewables Readiness Assessment for select LLDCs to identify key conditions for renewable energy deployment and identify actions for overcoming the challenges for renewable energy investments. Provide regional capacity building trainings and assessments for select LLDCs on long-term planning, policy, regulation, finance and technology related aspects of renewable energy. Provide technical support to select LLDCs to promote decentralized renewable energy solutions to address multiple SDG targets in connection with provision of essential services (health, education), productive use, livelihoods, entrepreneurship, etc. 	2020+
	IRENA	Support select LLDCs in enhancement of renewable energy ambition in National Determined Contributions (NDCs).	2020+

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	IRENA	Regional and sub-regional Investment Forum within the framework of the Climate Investment Platform to support bankable project development and facilitate access to sustainable finance.	2021+
	AfDB	Support at least 2 Regional Power Pools to facilitate power trade	2020-2022
	IDLO	<u>Proposal</u> : Review and develop policies and legal frameworks in LLDCs in order to attract private sector engagements in the development of energy projects	TBC
	UNOSSC, UNESCAP, UNDP, GGGI, ISA, WGEO	Support and provide on-demand capacity building to the relevant national authorities of the LLDCs to scale up sustainable energy use on the path of advancing green economy transition.	2021 (TBC)
	ADB	<p>Work to develop energy infrastructure and connect LLDCs into regional energy markets through cross-border inter-connection. Over the period of 2020–2022, ADB plans to finance 17 investment projects in energy sector for \$3,598 million to support power generation, power transmission and distribution, oil and gas pipeline, energy sector reform (including corporatization), and institutional capacity strengthening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAREC – 13 projects for \$2,603 million: Afghanistan – 5 projects totalling \$348 million electricity transmission and distribution, and oil and gas transmission and distribution; Kazakhstan – 2 projects totalling \$250 million, including 1 project totalling \$50 million for smart retail gas metering and 1 project totalling \$200 million for balance sheet optimization of Beineu-Shymkent Gas Pipeline (part of the gas pipeline from Kazakhstan to PRC); Regional – 1 project totalling \$8 billion for Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline project (Phase 1) – ADB financing amounting to \$1.1 billion for Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan; Tajikistan – 1 project totalling \$105 million for energy sector development, institutional reform and advanced retail metering investment; Uzbekistan – 3 projects totalling \$750 million energy sector development and institutional reform; solar energy generation, electricity transmission and distribution, and oil and gas transmission and distribution; Mongolia – 1 project totalling \$50 million to support renewable energy development. SASEC – 4 projects for \$995 million: Bhutan (2 projects; \$245 million): SASEC Green Power Investment Program (Tranche 1) (proposed for 2021, \$125 million), SASEC Green Power Investment Program (Tranche 2) (2022, \$120 million); Nepal (2 projects; \$750 million): SASEC Power Transmission and Distribution Systems Strengthening Project (proposed for \$200 million), Dudh Koshi Hydropower Project (2021, \$550 million) 	<p>2020-2022</p> <p>Various (2020-2022)</p>
	ADB	Under CAREC Energy Strategy 2030, a knowledge and support technical assistance will support (i) produce preparatory works for the establishment of a new regional transmission cooperation association, (ii) strengthen government capacity to carry out market reforms and attract investors, (iii) establish a financing vehicle for green energy projects and foster	2020-2022

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		consumer awareness for energy efficiency and (iv) establish a women-in-energy program to increase women participation in the energy sector. Two flagship Energy Investment Forums and a Women in Energy Summit are also planned under the technical assistance.	
	ADB	Provide technical assistance under 'Harmonizing the Greater Mekong Subregion Power Systems to Facilitate Regional Power Trade' project to GMS Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC), which Lao PDR is a member of.	ongoing
	DESA	TBC	TBC
2.2. ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity	UNIDO	Promote and support adoption of advanced digital production (ADP) technological breakthroughs in industrial production and manufacturing sectors in LLDCs	2020-2024
	WCO	Enhance capacity of Customs administrations of LLDCs through efficient implementation of relevant WCO tools (e.g. WCO Data Model, Framework of Standard on Cross-border E-Commerce, Immediate Release Guidelines)	2021-2024
	ESCAP	<u>Proposal:</u> Advance the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway in LLDCs by promoting e-resilience, connectivity, broadband for all and internet traffic management.	2020-2022
	ESCAP	<u>Proposal:</u> Promote regional dimensions of digital economy and digital transactions, as well as ICT for Development through IoT.	TBC
	ESCAP	Support legal and technical readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade (online and/or on-demand).	2020+
	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support LLDCs to access, manage and use - through case-study analysis - spatial data for environment, agriculture and land use, using Collect Earth (Involved countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda and Zambia). <u>Proposals:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Big) data driven decisions to support infrastructure (including remote sensing models and geospatial data) on regional and national level for LLDCs, for all priority areas. This infrastructure provides digital services and standards for all stakeholders, in particular decision-makers and entrepreneurs in digital agriculture and transport. Provide assistance to LLDCs to apply block-supply chain designs, promote SDG-compliant applications of blockchain and other digital agriculture technologies in the food system to strengthen and expand linkages along value chains, thus contributing to sustainability topics like child labour, labour conditions value distribution (living wages, living income, etc.), climate mitigation/adaptation, water productivity and sustainable value chains from producer to consumer. 	2020+ 2020+ (TBC)

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	IDLO	Support the transition of the justice sector towards e-justice in targeted LLDCs (ongoing in Uganda and Kyrgyzstan, other LLDCs to be confirmed)	2020-2021
	ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mongolia Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project (\$30 million) will develop a port of entry system that will enable interoperability and data sharing of varying systems of customs, inspection and immigration paving the way for single-window development. TA on Supporting Mongolia's Sustainable and Inclusive Integration in the Regional and Global Economy (KSTA/TRTA) - \$1 million) will undertake needs assessment and support development of digital trade, e-commerce and single window initiative for government services. Tourism projects will include the application of high-level technology to design Mongolia's first 'digital' rock art museum, which will include an online portal and mobile app. This will expand tourism potential from on-site visitation to virtual tourism. 	2020-2022
	ECA/AU and others	Digital ID Project for roll out in African countries, including African LLDC	TBC
	ITU	Support to infrastructure development, such as increased usage of connectivity; Efficient Spectrum management; Adoption of modern ICT infrastructure. Examples in LLDCs include: Assist countries in South Eastern Europe in establishment of investment opportunity mapping systems in Broadband infrastructure and services, benefitting Moldova and North Macedonia (2020-2022); Providing technical assistance for Review of Spectrum Policy for Moldova (2020).	2020-2024
	ITU	Support national cybersecurity. Examples in LLDCs include: Support Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRT) Establishment in Botswana (2018-2020), Zimbabwe (2017-2021), Malawi (2019-2021); Enhance Kyrgyzstan's capabilities to identify, manage and respond to cyber threats through establishment of a national Security Operations Center (SOC), which will serve as a trusted and central coordination point of contact for cybersecurity (2020-2023).	2020-2024
	ITU	Support digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystem, through Innovation Forums and Innovation Ecosystem Trainings for Skills Development; Global Ecosystem Programme for LLDCs; ITU Innovation Challenges for LLDCs; Assessment and e-strategies to understand the needs and developing strategies; Digital Innovation Profiles; Bankable ecosystem projects; Digital Skills for the economic empowerment of women; Development of products and services such as reports, toolkits, e-learning, projects; capacity development through promoting the Digital Skills Assessments Guidebook; Promoting the Digital Transformation Centres.	2020-2024

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		Examples in LLDCs include: Provide educational institutions in Kazakhstan with IT services, such as a high-speed Internet, a platform for organizing distance learning, video conferencing, IP-telephony, connecting to an electronic library of universities and educational resources, network management and monitoring (Creation of smart education ecosystem in Kazakhstan project) (2020-2023); Creation of Digital Skills Center for Women and Youth in Uzbekistan in order to increase the use of ICT services, bridge the gender gap and enable digital entrepreneurship and industry transformation (2019-2021).	
	ITU	Support deployment of digital services and applications, such as Smart Villages, Digital Public Goods, Digital Economy, Mobile and Digital Health, Digital Agriculture, Digital Learning, Digital Government, e-Commerce and other digital strategies/policies. Example in LLDCs include: Contribute to the national e-commerce development in Kazakhstan (ongoing -2021); in collaboration with WHO, using Digital Health Services to accelerate SDG in the Africa Region, benefitting Niger and Lesotho (2019-2021); in collaboration with ILO, provide capacity building towards boosting decent jobs and enhancing skills for youth in Africa's digital economy, benefitting Niger (2020-2025).	2020-2024
	ITU	Support policy and regulation through Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) Best Practice Guidelines; Global ICT Regulatory Outlook Report; Digital Regulation Handbook and Platform; Global Symposium for Regulators and side-events; Collaborative regulation awareness raising	2020-2024
	ITU	Provide statistics to support evidence-based policies for digitally inclusive societies; to allow decision makers, policy makers and other stakeholders using ICT data, statistics and trends, analytical reports and visualisations in the policy process; provide WTI Database, visualizations, analytical and statistical reports.	2020-2024
	UN Office of the UN SG's Special Advisor on Digital Cooperation	Promote universal connectivity (through infrastructure, sustainable energy sources, a suitable regulatory environment and favourable market dynamics), digital public goods (access to digital solutions, support and additional investment to scale) and digital capacity building (inclusive skills development and effective training) in LLDCs, in line with the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.	2020+
	OSCE	The OSCE project "Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region" is a multiphase project designed to support a number of OSCE participating States, including several LLDCs, to effectively employ green ports principles and innovative digital connectivity technologies. Within the framework of this project, OSCE is currently working with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to establish a common digital trade platform able to facilitate data sharing between trade and logistics stakeholders,	2020-2023

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		streamlining and digitizing transit procedures, reducing trade costs and transit time, and reduce the carbon footprint of traded goods. The project can expedite the implementation of the Vienna programme of Action for LLDCs by (i) Significantly increasing intermodal connectivity between Central Asia and Europe and <i>vice-versa</i> ; (ii) Significantly simplifying and streamlining border-crossing procedures to reduce port and border delays; (iii) Increasing trade diversification and fostering the resilience of supply chains' (iv) Reducing transit time and transport costs and increasing LLDCs' participation in global trade through harmonization of rules and regulations' and (v) Promoting progress on gender equality through vocational education and training.	
STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION			
3.1. Public-private dialogue and private sector development	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the Chair of the LLDC Group	Organize regular Public-Private Sector Forum on LLDCs, to bring together public and private sector from LLDCs, transit countries and development partners to exchange best practices in forging private sector partnerships and to encourage international business to focus on LLDCs as potential market and business opportunities and vice versa	Annual, starting in 2021
	ITC, UN-OHRLLS and LLDC Group Chair	Enhance participation and engagement of LLDCs in the ITC World Export Development Forum and facilitate discussions and matchmaking opportunities with private sector.	2020+
	UNDRR	Mobilize and support the private sector in LLDCs to establish national chapters of the ARISE (Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies) Network	TBD
	UNIDO	Provide support to enhance PPP enablers in LLDCs, especially via capacity-building exercises, the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), and through the use of online platforms such as the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) and the Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges (SPXs).	2020-2024
	ECA in collaboration with UN-OHRLLS, AfDB and Afreximbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Proposal</u>: Facilitate establishment of LLDCs Public and Private sector consultative meetings for exchange of ideas and best practices to advance VPoA goals • <u>Proposal</u>: Convene an AfCFTA-anchored VPoA Forum on Leveraging the implementation of the AfCFTA to advance the achievement of the VPoA goals 	2020- 2021
	UNEP	Through the Switch Africa Green programme, support countries in Africa (including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Uganda) to strengthen specific policies on green business, as well as enhance awareness of green business and Sustainable Consumption and Production practices in the region.	2020-2022
	WCO	Promote the use of existing WCO instruments and tools that foster public-private partnership such as Customs-Business Partnership Guidance, AEO and others.	TBC

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	ESCAP	Support countries in developing and strengthening competitiveness of their MSMEs and enhance their integration into regional and global value chains through regional network of SME policymakers and experts.	2020-2024
	FAO	Provide assistance to LLDCs to elaborate their food systems' related development plans in collaboration with the private sector for maximum sustainability impact, focusing on prioritized territories, market systems and/or value chains; establish system-based programmes based on policy alignment and coordinated public private sector investment, such as Agrinvest and 3ADI+, that are in place to fast track this process.	2020+
	UNOSSC with UNCDF	Through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, launch two projects on private sector development in selected LLDCs: Strengthen inclusive digital economies in Malawi, by supporting digital innovations and their roll-out across relevant economic sectors; Strengthen the pro-poor reach of the financial sector, by supporting digital financial inclusion in Zambia.	2020 - 2021
	CFC	Commit around \$16 million from the total of \$60 million for projects to development of innovative enterprise in commodity sector in LLDCs.	2021-2025
	ADB	Provide Technical Assistance and support under "Partnership with the Private Sector for Sustainable Trade Facilitation Results in the CAREC" project, which will (i) develop private sector opportunities for wider-based involvement in trade facilitation, (ii) strengthen Institutional capacity of CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations, (iii) expand corridor performance measurement and monitoring mechanism and package it for pilot replication.	2019+
	ADB	Supporting institutional capacity strengthening of the CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA) by (i) conducting a training needs assessment and designing training models to help CFCFA members provide assistance to other CFCFA associations and future logistics and freight forwarding practitioners, and (ii) developing a business model and action plan for self-sustainability of the CFCFA, and also facilitate annual consultation between the CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee and the CFCFA to promote public-private dialogue on transport and logistics priorities on the CAREC region	Ongoing
	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	<i>Proposal:</i> Possible organization of Public-Private Sector Forums on Tourism for LLDCs and at the same time ensure LLDCs will be actively engaged in UN WTO competitions, courses and start-ups training.	TBC
3.2. Attracting and facilitating investment	UNCTAD, UN-OHRLS and LLDC Group Chair and in collaboration with WAIPA	Support LLDCs and their investment promotion agencies in: (i) enhancing their beneficial participation and engagement in the UNCTAD World Investment Forum to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2020; (ii) targeting and facilitating foreign direct investment in sustainable	2020+

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		development; and (iii) responding to COVID-19 and adjusting to the post-COVID-19 environment, including a note on FDI Trends and Key Issues in LLDCs.	
	ESCAP in partnership with UNCTAD and WAIPA	<u>Proposal</u> : Organize comprehensive national and regional level training for investment policymakers and IPA official on promotion, attraction and facilitation of FDI for sustainable development. Capacity building exercises will be on demand and through national workshops and the Asia-Pacific FDI Policy Network.	2020-2024
	ECA (in collaboration with UNCTAD and ECE)	<u>Proposal</u> : Public-private partnerships to catalyze infrastructure development and innovative financing in support of industrialization in Africa	2020-2021
	AfDB	Assist 3 LLDCs in developing bankable infrastructure projects to be presented at the annual Africa Investment Forum	2021+
	IDLO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through ISP/LDCs, provide on-demand <i>ad hoc</i> direct legal assistance and capacity building to LLDC governments and SMEs on investment-related matters, including preparation and implementation of PPPs and/or related legislation, international investment law and dispute settlement, investment contract negotiation, and other foreign investment-related laws and regulations. Support the judicial sector through the development of commercial mediation to facilitate dispute resolution for business and judicial capacity-building in the enforcement of decisions in commercial cases. <u>Proposal</u>: Promote engagement between private and justice sector through the creation/operationalization of Court Users Committees and mediation systems, and capacity-building on commercial justice, insolvency, debt and contract enforcement. 	(ongoing) 2020-2021 (ongoing) 2020+ TBC
	CFC	Require and support projects to use CFC's Social and Environmental Management System (SEMS), an impact monitoring and management practice, designed in collaboration with ILO, to support a systematic and clear approach for different stakeholders to measure and report on the impact investment across different sectors and industries. The SEMS comprises procedures that enable staff to identify, assess, manage, and report Environmental, Social and Governance risks and impacts of financial transactions and define the decision-making process, likely resulting in higher investments.	ongoing
3.3. Diversification and value-addition	UNIDO	Provide technical cooperation services leveraging national/regional/global value chains for industrial competitiveness development in key sectors, and job creation especially in suburban and rural areas of LLDCs	2020-2024

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proposal:</i> Support and provide on-demand capacity building to LLDCs governments in the transfer of tools to support the development of SMEs linked to value chains. • <i>Proposal:</i> Support LLDC governments to explore and transition to green recovery to protect nature-based jobs and livelihoods, including rural entrepreneurship in crisis and post crisis situations. 	2021
	ISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance and support to increase awareness of potential benefits for LLDCs to ratify and implement the United National Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and participate in activities in the international seabed area (deep sea exploration, exploitation, marine scientific research). • Increase awareness on benefits of the Blue Economy for LLDCs, including through establishment of benefit sharing mechanism for economic and non-financial benefits derived from activities undertaken in the international seabed area. 	Ongoing
3.4. Sustainable agriculture sector development	UNIDO	Support the development of agro-industries in urban and rural areas and promote food safety in the processing of agro-food commodities and its regulatory environment	2020-2024
	ESCAP	Provide assistance to enhance the capacity of member States in Central Asia subregion to use geospatial data for agricultural drought monitoring.	2019-2020
	ESCAP (as part of a consortium, led by CIRAD and GRET and including FAO)	Provide, in selected ASEAN countries including Lao PDR, support for an AFD/ EU DEVCO-funded project on “Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions (ASSET)”, which provides scientific evidence policy, networking and capacity building support to countries to promote sustainable and resilient agrological systems, as well as food safety.	2020-2024
	ESCAP	<i>Proposal:</i> Provide capacity building, networking and advisory support to selected LLDCs and transit developing countries for sustainable agricultural mechanization, with particular focus on sectoral strategy formulation, policy dialogue, harmonization of testing standards, private sector engagement, and promotion of sustainable and climate-smart mechanization technologies.	Annual, 2020+
	FAO	<i>Proposal:</i> Provide assistance to LLDCs under the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, aimed to prioritise FAO interventions in vulnerable countries that need the most help in achieving SDGs 1 and 2. (Examples include: Importance of commodity exports and services; Diversification to meet demand for changing diets; Production opportunities with high value products; Strengthening agri-food system actors and networks; and Support SME and food system actors, including strengthening engagement of private sector in agri-food systems.)	TBC
	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance access to adequate, affordable, nutritious and healthy food for everyone in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal. 	2020-24

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of selected value chains and relevant markets, as well as typology of micro-regions along the corridor in Lao PDR and nearby countries. • Promotion of mountain agriculture in Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal. 	
	FAO, in collaboration with International Financial Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national e-Agriculture strategy, and pilot selected ICT solutions for enhanced monitoring and management of food systems, in Mongolia. <p><u>Proposals:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to LLDCs in prioritization, preparation and implementation of investment strategies and projects to promote sustainable agricultural development and food security. • Increase smallholders' productive capacities with a focus on climate change adaptation and improved nutrition, including through strengthened partnerships and alliances, promotion of innovative approaches and improved knowledge exchange to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. • Support states to assess status of land degradation, soil pollution and water management with a view to adjust national policies and strategies for spurring investment in infrastructure, irrigation facilities and related innovations. 	2020-2021 2020-2021
	UNOSSC with IFAD	Increase livelihoods in Zambia by building a soya bean processing plant and supporting farmers on best practices and access to markets.	2020-2021
	UNOSSC with WFP	Under the India-UN fund, support building resilience of smallholder farms in the Hwange and Chiredzi regions of Zimbabwe by increasing small grains production and productivity, and market access.	2020-2022
	UNOSSC in collaboration with IFAD	Implement South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Green Economy for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security Project to scale up sustainable green economy approaches in developing countries in the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia, including LLDCs (Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan) with potential outreach to other LLDCs in the regions and globally.	2020-2021
	ADB	Provide support to LLDCs in the area of (i) agriculture infrastructure development (such as irrigation and rural access facilities), (ii) forest management, (iii) mitigation of climate-related disaster (such as floods and drought), (iv) promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, and (v) agricultural trade and food safety. Over the period of 2020–2022, ADB plans to finance 8 investment projects for \$444 million to support development of agricultural and livestock value chain, access to agricultural services, and agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation.	

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAREC – 3 projects for \$143 million: Kyrgyz Republic – 1 project totalling \$74 million for Agriculture Wholesale Market Development; Mongolia – 2 projects totalling \$69 million for SME food systems resilience and value-added cashmere production and export. • GMS – 3 projects for \$151 million: Lao PDR (3 projects for \$151 million): Flood and Drought Water Management Project, \$42 million, GMS Cross-Border Livestock Health and Value Chains Improvement Project, (\$62 million, 2022 approval), GMS EWEC Agriculture Infrastructure Sector (additional financing), (\$47 million, 2023 approval) • SASEC – 2 projects for \$150 million: Nepal (2 projects for \$150 million): Proposal (2021): \$50 million Targeted Support for Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (renamed as Agriculture Inputs Strengthening Project) to improve access of smallholder farmers to key agricultural inputs through improved public-private partnerships, Proposal (2022): \$100 million Mechanized Irrigation Innovation Project to support long-term sustainable solutions to increase year-round access to irrigation by focusing on areas where water can be economically and sustainably exploited. 	<p>2021-2022</p> <p>Various (2021-2023)</p> <p>Various (2021-2022)</p>
	IDLO	<u>Proposal</u> : Provide technical and legal advice for policy/legal reforms on the reduction of barriers to trade in the food sector, in the form of tariffs and non-tariffs measures, and complementary capacity-building trainings.	TBC
	UNDP	<u>Proposal</u> : Support provided to LLDC governments to improve agricultural productivity through (agric) Supplier Development Programming to facilitate the development of businesses with growth potential in the sector.	2021
3.5. Science, technology and innovation and research	WIPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the development of national innovation systems in LLDCs • Provide capacity building to enable the effective use of intellectual property (IP) system for development and economic growth • Assist LLDCs with the access and use of technical, scientific and patent information for technological capacity building • Provide capacity building on transfer of appropriate technologies for development of selected beneficiary countries <p>Provide capacity building for universities and research institutes on establishing and functioning of Technology Transfer Offices (TTO)</p>	2020-2024
	ISA	Promote the development and establishment of specific mechanisms and tools to develop the necessary capacities of LLDCs in marine scientific research as well as organize and facilitate technology transfer, in line with Part XI of UNCLOS	Ongoing

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	ESCAP	Provide support to Afghanistan and Bhutan in establishing national think-tanks for supporting governments in accelerating SDGs.	2019-2021
COOPERATION BETWEEN LLDCS AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES			
4.1. Multi-stakeholder dialogues and experience sharing	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the LLDC Group Chair	Set up a regular Multi-stakeholder Forum, for representatives of LLDCs, transit countries, development partners and UN system and international organizations to share experience on how to accelerate implementation of the VPoA	Annual, starting in 2020
	IDLO	<i>Proposal:</i> Support the multi-stakeholder forum organized by UN-OHRLLS, conduct an assessment of the main legal barriers preventing the implementation of the VPoA and, therefore, facilitating the sharing of best practices and common/innovative solutions amongst LLDCs.	TBC
	UN-ECLAC	Implement a national policy dialogue meeting in Paraguay to validate the findings of the national connectivity reports with national and subregional stakeholders. The policy dialogue will be combined with a capacity building workshop to provide substantive support in integration of recommendations into national policies.	2021
	ECA in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, and other UN entities based in Ethiopia	<i>Proposal:</i> Convene an African LLDC Dialogue on bringing greater coherence to the implementation of the VPoA, including through trade liberalisation within the AfCFTA	2020 -2021
	ESCAP	Enhance participation of LLDCs in the annual Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) and multi-stakeholder forums on promoting responsible business conduct.	2020-2024
	ADB and CAREC Institute	Facilitate sharing of knowledge, undertaking joint workshops and seminars, organizing staff exchanges, and co-financing research and capacity development to CAREC LLDCs on (i) CAREC Regional Integration Index (CRII); (ii) e-commerce; (iii) sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations; and the (iv) CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM).	Ongoing
	UNOSSC and UNDP	South-South Global Thinkers initiative provides an enabling environment to fill the knowledge gap that can strengthen the scaling-up of SSC and TrC and its impact and provide a bridge to link with SDGs and their implementation. This initiative pools together over 250 think tanks from all different regions, providing them with a platform to get funding for research, promote their research at global and regional foras, engage in online and offline dialogues and discussions with other think tanks and member states to share ideas, knowledge and potentially engage on joint research initiatives. Over 15 think tanks who are members of the initiative are from LLDCs (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Paraguay, Rwanda, and Uganda).	Ongoing

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
4.2. Opportunities of regional initiatives and integration	ITC and African Union Commission	Establish the African Trade Observatory, an online portal that provides key up-to-date trade data and statistics for policymakers across the continent to monitor the progress of economic integration in the AfCFTA area.	2020
	ITC in collaboration with IOM	Implement COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative project, to increase formal small-scale cross-border trade flows in the COMESA region through institutional capacity building and better data collection and monitoring.	2020-2022
	ITC	Support the implementation of AfCFTA by providing capacity building and advisory services	2020
	ECA in collaboration with UN-OHRLLS, AfDB and Afreximbank	<u>Proposal:</u> Facilitate the establishment of one or two regional single windows	2021-2022
	AfDB	Convene a Trade and Transport Facilitation Forum involving Africa's LLDCs	2021+
	ESCAP	Address Transboundary Dimensions of Agenda 2030 through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration (DA 11th tranche on RECI).	2018-2021
	ESCAP in partnership with UNECE	Enhance regional cooperation in economic areas relevant to member countries (all are LLDCs) and partners through the SPECA Economic Forum.	Annual
4.3. Enhancing South-South Cooperation	UNIDO	Expand "Belt and Road" infrastructure development projects in LLDCs, including facilitating technology transfer in LLDCs through UNIDO Centres for South-South Industrial Cooperation.	2020-2024
	UNIDO	Expand towards other LLDCs and organize the yearly event "BRIDGE for Cities 4.0", organized jointly with the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC).	Annually, 2020+
	UNOSSC	South-South Galaxy is a digital platform for knowledge sharing and partnership brokering to address transnational challenges among the Global South, including LLDCs. It acts as a needs broker and aims to facilitate connectedness between countries and regions for knowledge sharing, capacity development and creating partnership and entrepreneurship opportunities. For example, the governments of Azerbaijan, Nepal and Paraguay have shared SSC solutions and projects on the Galaxy in order to facilitate knowledge exchanges and partnerships among countries and institutions in the South.	2019+
	UNOSSC and the Government of India	Favour cooperation with LLDCs within the activities of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, responding to priority initiatives articulated by these governments.	2020-2021
	UNOSSC in collaboration with UN RCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue support to LLDCs governments through tailor made services, demand-driven capacity building in SSC, advocating for SSC, facilitating SSC through the established network of national focal points and its expansion, and ensuring increased access for LLDCs to climate funds. Support to LLDCs in producing South-South in Action publications to release the successful knowledge accumulated in LLDCs and in support to South-South knowledge exchange. 	2020-2021+

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	UNOSSC	Scaling up of South-South Network for Public Service Innovation matching and capacity building in partnership with national institutions, especially in LDCs, e.g., Bhutan	Ongoing, continuous
	UNOSSC	Lao PDR candidates to be focus countries under Phase 3 of the RoK-UNOSSC project on Science, technology and innovation.	TBC
	UNOSSC	Under the India, Brazil and South Africa Fund (IBSA), managed by UNOSSC, implementation of a project in Malawi and Zambia titled Eliminating child marriages in Malawi and Zambia and offering scholarships to child marriage survivors. The project focuses to contribute to and accelerate implementation of the Africa and global commitments to ending child marriage as a way of achieving the boarder development goals of gender equality, freedom from poverty and just world and there by contribute to agenda 2030 and SDGs.	Ongoing, continuous
	FAO	<i>Proposal:</i> Set up a thematic group on LLDCs on FAO's South-South and Triangular cooperation (SSTC Gateway) to promote e-dialogues and discussion forums, sharing of good practices and networking among the LLDCs on issues relating to agri-food sector development and trade.	TBC
	ESCAP in partnership with UNOSSC	<i>Proposal:</i> Organise the sub-regional meeting on South-South Cooperation in North and Central Asia.	TBC
	UNDP	Support African LLDCs in institutional capacity building to strengthen the national South-South Cooperation architecture in implementation of the BAPA+40	2020-2021
MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT			
5.1. Resource mobilization	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the LLDC Group Chair	Develop project proposals for different development partners for funding in LLDC priority areas.	2020-2021
	OECD	<i>Proposal:</i> Provide specific capacity development efforts so that LLDCs may fully leverage the OECD's Transition Finance Toolkit which seeks to support countries in assessing and benchmarking their development finance mix to maximize the use of different resources. The Toolkit includes Transition finance factsheets – key information on transition stages; ABC methodology paper – operational guidance to conduct transition finance studies; Transition finance dashboard – Interactive online data visualisation tool; Horizontal publications – e.g., the transition finance compendium; Country pilots – hosting the existing and future country case studies (i.e. Zambia). Extending the transition finance dashboard to include LLDCs as a group and deploying country diagnostics in further LLDCs is envisioned.	2021+
	ESCAP in partnership with RCO Tajikistan and ESCAP SONCA	Provide training and build capacities in resource mobilization among policymakers in Tajikistan (DA, 11 th Tranche Project: Supporting the Countries with Special Needs in Asia-Pacific in meeting the challenge of resource mobilization for achieving the 2030 Agenda).	2020
	ESCAP (partners TBD)	Organize Sub-regional Virtual Training for Countries in North and Central Asia on Financing for Development (including introduction to Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF),	2020

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		financial inclusion and MSMEs, and green finance) - from sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis to achieving the 2030 Agenda.	
	UNDP, in collaboration with UN organizations relevant to the selected African LLDCs	Support selected LLDCs in Africa in developing SDG-aligned financing strategies and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia	2020-2022
5.2. Assistance towards strengthening national statistical systems	UNIDO	Accelerate industrial and manufacturing data gathering and industrial statistical capacity building in LLDCs through analytical tools such as the Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP), the UNIDO International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, and statistical databases (INDSTAT4, INDSTAT2, MINSTAT, MVA and IDSB).	2020-2024
	ESCAP	Support statistical capacity building in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with a particular focus on strengthening national statistical systems to be enabled and empowered to deliver innovative statistical products and services in support of national, regional and international commitments such as the 2030 Agenda.	2020-2024
	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support LLDCs with technical assistance on Food Security and Nutrition Statistics, including SDG indicator 2.1.1 (Azerbaijan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Eswatini, Mali, Mongolia, Niger, Paraguay, and Uganda) and SDG indicator 2.1.2 (Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Eswatini, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Niger, Paraguay, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe); regional workshops on food security indicators (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Eswatini, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe); and national workshops on food security indicators (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, and Paraguay). • Support improving farm-level Agricultural Statistics in coordination and partnership with the World Bank, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other resource partners. Capacity development and technical support is being provided in a number of LLDCs (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, and Uganda). Support targeted the preparation of an Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRISurvey), covering a number of modules on specific aspects of farm operation. A vast training programme for local staff on Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) applications, design of new questionnaires, data cleaning, processing and dissemination was carried out to enable the implementation of new survey programmes. In Uganda, the project is preparing an integrated household and agricultural survey also covering non-agricultural households in rural areas. • Similar projects are expected to expand in 2020 through the 50x2030 Initiative, led by the World Bank, which will involve more LLDCs in the next 10 years. 	2020+

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Earth Observation for Agriculture Statistics project in Uganda. The project aims to build capacity of both FAO and the Ugandan Government on the use of satellite imagery together with in-situ data to generate crop area and yield estimates and maps for main crops. Provision of technical assistance on the design, planning and implementation of Censuses of Agriculture in a number of LLDCs, including Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mali, Nepal and Paraguay. 	
	UNOSSC and UNDP	Under the India-UN Fund, complete a National Participatory Poverty Assessment of Eswatini, and through it design of tailored policies for inclusion and poverty reduction.	2020
	UNOSSC and UNFPA	Under the India-UN Fund, revamp the national statistical system of Republic of Moldova into an efficient, register-based and user-oriented platform, also enhanced with administrative data.	2020-2022
	ADB	Provide technical assistance to pivotal entities in the national statistical Systems of Afghanistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and Lao PDR to improve the relevance, accuracy, timeliness and detail of economic statistics (encompassing all major areas of the data development process, namely: survey design; data collection; data cleaning; data management; statistical compilation; statistical analysis; and information dissemination)	Ongoing?
	ITU	Developing online training on ICT statistics	2020
	UNWTO	<i>Proposal:</i> Support countries in statistical capacity building for the tourism sector.	TBC
5.3. Assistance towards deriving benefits from relevant conventions and other legal instruments, including UNCLOS	ISA	Identify measures to increase the participation of LLDCs in the implementation of the regime of the international seabed area and in the work of the International Seabed Authority	Ongoing
	OLA	Provide needs-based technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to LLDCs to build their understanding and the implementation of relevant international, regional and sub-regional conventions and other legal instruments, including those related to transit transport and trade facilitation, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, so as to reinforce their abilities to derive benefits from the oceans and blue economy strategies.	Ongoing
OTHER AREAS			
6.1. Climate change mitigation and	UNFCCC	Facilitate acceleration of support for the formulation of NAPs and subsequent implementation of project and programmes in increased number of LLDCs	2020-2021

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Global Adaptation Network, facilitate exchange of knowledge on climate change adaptation between countries including LLDCs, strengthening their resilience and reducing their vulnerability to climate shocks. Under GEF-funded project “Technology Needs Assessment (TNA)” Phase IV, provide targeted financial and technical support to participating LLDCs (including Afghanistan, Chad, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda) to prepare new or updated and improved TNAs for prioritized technologies that reduce GHG emissions, support adaptation to climate change, and are consistent with Nationally Determined Contributions and national sustainable development objectives. 	Ongoing Expected 2020-2023
	UNDRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical and capacity building support to LLDCs to update or develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies that are in-line with the Sendai Framework, and in coherence with the national adaptation and mitigation policies as well as national SDG policies, and support the implementation of the disaster risk reduction and resilience objectives of the VPoA. Mobilize LLDCs to join the “Target E Coherent Approach” initiative to strengthen policy coherence by providing normative guidance and available methodology on building coherence across DRR, climate change and sustainable development at national and local levels as part of DRR strategies/NAPs. Mobilize the National Sendai Framework focal point and the National Platform for DRR to support the LLDCs to promote a coherent linkage with climate change and sustainable development. 	2020+
	UNDRR	Mobilize local authorities in LLDCs to join the successor of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign 2010-2020 in order to support local governments to assess the resilience of cities and develop and implement local DRR strategies.	2020+
	UNDRR	Provide technical support and capacity building to LLDCs to establish or strengthen national disaster loss databases, using the DesInventar Sendai tool, and to report on the targets of the Sendai Framework and the disaster risk reduction indicators of the SDGs through the Sendai Framework Monitor, and support LLDCs to conduct disaster risk assessments and develop risk profiles to guide evidence-based risk-informed policies and investments across the priority areas of the VPoA.	2020+
	UNCCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support LLDCs in setting their Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets (SDG 15.3) promoting healthy and productive lands for a sustainable and resilient future in the context of the impacts of climate change and COVID-19. 	2020-2021

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support LLDCs with technical guidance to develop and implement policies and programmes to achieve climate adaptation and resilience ambitions for the agriculture sector, in line with Nationally Determined Contributions. 	
	UNOSSC with WGEO, other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance participation and engagement, as well as facilitate networking of all LLDCs at regional and global levels in the Biannual Regional High-level Conferences on green economy in support of multi-stakeholder dialogue, structural economic transformations and scaling up renewable energy in LLDCs to tackle challenges of landlockedness. Support participation of the LLDCs public and private sector in the World Green Economy Summits to encourage international business to focus investments on LLDCs. 	Continue in 2021+
	UNOSSC and UNDP	<p>Under the India-UN Fund,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce the resilience of vulnerable populations through sustainable livelihoods, in Chad; Build 6 improved village hydraulic systems in Mali; Build a dam and hydraulic systems for land restoration in Burkina Faso; Dig wells to combat draught and floods in Bolivia. 	2020-2023
	ESCAP in partnership with UNFCCC, UNEP and IGCE (RF)	<p><u>Proposal:</u> Provide training activities on developing GHG emissions and Paris Agreement reporting web platform and tools, in the following LLDCs: Armenia, Azerbaijan Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</p>	2020-2021
	ESCAP in partnership with UNEP, UNDP and KOICA	<p><u>Proposal:</u> Strengthen climate governance, climate finance and innovative local solutions in selected ASEAN countries, including Lao PDR through the ASEAN Climate Readiness Programme.</p>	2022-2026
	ESCAP in partnership with UN-Habitat	<p>Integrate SDGs into local action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. The project is intended to (i) strengthen awareness and institutional capacities of project cities including the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to implement, monitor and report on the SDGs at the local level by incorporating them into local development plans; and (ii) strengthen regional capacity to localize SDG implementation and reporting and the evaluation of progress in implementing the SDGs at the urban-level in Asia and the Pacific.</p>	2018-2021
	ESCAP in partnership with UN-Habitat and UN ECE	<p>Interregional Cooperation for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The project is intended to increase policy coherence in Kazakhstan and promote improved capacities of institutions and other agents of change in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Almaty city was chosen as a pilot city to implement the project at local levels.</p>	2020-2023

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
	ESCAP	“Forecasting Sustainable Urbanization: Support for sustainable infrastructure planning in cities” project, to provide assistance to policymakers in partner cities of Almaty (Kazakhstan), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan) to better plan sustainable infrastructure and manage urban growth by developing and applying a forecasting methodology and tool that will estimate the natural resource use (including material use, waste generation, energy consumption and GHG emissions, water consumption, and land use), infrastructure, and financial needs associated with expected population and economic growth. The project will also enable participating cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which could count towards their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).	2019-2021
	ESCAP	<u>Proposal:</u> Enhancing knowledge and capacity to build resilience to slow-onset disasters in Central Asia with a focus on Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The project aims to enhance policy makers’ knowledge and awareness of the risks from complex slow-onset disasters (drought, desertification, land degradation) to agriculture, infrastructure, and water management sectors and strengthen sector capacities to manage these risks in the selected Central Asian countries.	2021-2022
	ADB	Provide regional technical assistance on Developing the Central Asia Regional Cooperation Water Pillar. The scoping study will initially focus on water resources management, including economic and financing aspects among the five Central Asian LLDCs (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).	planned
	UNECE	Analytical work and research on impacts of climate change on transport assets and operations and identification of most suitable adaptation measures: Work is ongoing in the framework of a UNECE-led group of experts. Under its renewed mandate, the group of experts is expanding the analysis of climate indices across the UNECE region for creating more knowledge on future impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on transport assets and operations.	2020-2025
	UNWTO	Collaboration with UNEP/others on One Planet Vision on SCP	TBC
	OSCE	The OSCE project “Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia” aims to reduce climate change-related security threats in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia by raising awareness, developing capacities and sharing knowledge within and among the regions, as well as through the development and implementation of climate change adaptation measures in the most vulnerable geographic areas (climate change and security hot-spots). Among the LLDCs, the project includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.	2020-2022

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
6.2. Strengthening of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITT for LLDCs)	ITT for LLDCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize LLDCs that have not yet done so to ratify the Multilateral Agreement on Establishment of the Think Tank Mobilize voluntary contributions to the budget of the Think Tank 	ongoing
	ITT for LLDCs and UN-OHRLLS	Undertake joint research, such as a joint background study for the Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs on Trade	2021+
	ITT for LLDCs	Develop a model free trade agreement specifically designed for LLDCs	2021+
	ITT for LLDCs	Implement a capacity building project for LLDC candidates interested in acquiring their PhD (in cooperation with University of Wollongong, Australia)	2021+
	ESCAP in partnership with ITT for LLDCs	<i>Proposal:</i> Promote exchange and joint research and capacity building activities between ITT for LLDCs and other members of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNet) and facilitate dissemination of ITT for LLDCs work.	2020+
	FAO	Initiate engagement with International Think Tank for LLDCs to encourage mutual collaboration on promoting South-South cooperation among LLDCs (joint collaboration for knowledge generation and sharing, policy dialogues and capacity building).	2021
6.3. The impact of COVID-19 on LLDCs	UN-OHRLLS, DCO, DESA, in collaboration with ECA, ECE, ECLAC and ESCAP	<i>Proposal:</i> Promote knowledge and experience sharing on the socio-economic impact and response in LLDCs, in particular amongst the LLDC Resident Coordinators	2020+
	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with other relevant organizations	Prepare a directory of resources that LLDCs can use to access emergency and recovery assistance	2020
	UNEP	Support countries globally, including LLDCs, in efforts to incorporate the environmental dimension into their COVID-19 response efforts, which will include 4 blocks of response: medical and humanitarian emergency phase; transformational change for people and planet; investing to build back better; modernizing global environmental governance.	TBD
	WCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a repository of resources that Customs administrations of LLDCs can use to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, including WCO instruments, tools, databases, Members' best practices and leverage on partnerships with other international organizations and the private sector to support Customs administrations in the response to the pandemic. Develop WCO Guidelines on cross-border movement of relief consignments and on Customs administrations business continuity. 	2020 2020-2022 2020-2024

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the capacity of Customs administrations of LLDCs through efficient implementation of relevant WCO tools (Revised Kyoto Convention, Istanbul Convention, newly developed guidelines). 	
	UN-ECLAC	Prepare a report on the impact of COVID-19 on the logistics performance of Bolivia and Paraguay as well as policy recommendations to improve the connectivity and logistics fluidity with their transit countries after the pandemic	2020
	IDLO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in the identification of the specific impact of COVID-19 on access to justice and rule of law, and in strengthening the capacity of National Human Rights Institution in investigating and adjudicating human rights violations. (currently aimed at Uganda, other LLDCs TBC). <u>Proposal:</u> Support national authorities in investigating price fixing and artificial scarcity driven by COVID-19 in rural regions. Support in the assessment of the economic consequences of COVID-19 on national economies and in the formulation of adequate policy and legislative responses. (Proposed to aim at Mongolia, other LLDCs TBC) 	2020-2021 2020-2021
	ESCAP	Provide capacity building on financial resource mobilization, inhibited by the COVID-19 pandemic, for policymakers in Asia's LLDCs. (DA-11 on resource mobilisation in CSN, adjusted to address COVID-19 pandemic consequences).	2020-2021
	ESCAP	Prepare a report on the impact of COVID-19 on LLDCs and the status of e-resilience against COVID-19.	2020
	FAO, in collaboration with World Bank and other International Financial Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick COVID-19 impact assessment and provision of policy recommendations on agriculture and food security for responding to the pandemic in each LLDC in Asia. <u>Proposal:</u> Undertake country level assessments in LLDCs, in consultation with national governments and counterparts, to provide recommendations for actionable interventions to address agrifood systems and food security problems as a result of COVID-19. The assessments will be undertaken in consultation with national governments and counterparts to ensure relevance and appropriateness of the proposed responses and investment topics to each country context. 	2020
	FAO	<u>Proposals:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support smallholder farmers in LLDCs to respond to COVID-19 impacts to reduce food supply chain disruptions, food shortages, and loss of employment and income continuing combating climate change impacts scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture projects. 	2020-2021

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource mobilization aimed at green recovery and building back better, in line with the joint UN approach in cooperation and coordination with other UN agencies, addressing the urgent need to support the transition to healthier, climate resilient and resource efficient green and circular agriculture and food value chains as an integral part of economic recovery and stimulus packages. Key actions include: i) support national and sub-national governments in recovery planning, aimed at creating more green jobs by developing and implementing bio-economy strategies for the agri-food and land use sectors; ii) enhance standards, tools and mechanisms for monitoring, compiling data, conducting rapid assessments and analyses to monitor climate resilience and sustainability of the agri-food and land use sector; iii) support the scaling up of nature-based solutions, with a focus on ecosystem restoration and management, including sustainable forest, livestock and wildlife management and the greening of value chains that nurture smallholder stewardship. (Building on existing green initiatives, countries of focus potentially include Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Paraguay and Uganda.) 	
	GCF	Provide financial support to governments to craft a range of green stimulus measures and design in collaboration with partners a pipeline of projects to scale up climate initiatives with strong socio-economic co-benefits to promote a green resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.	TBC
	ADB	Undertake total of 25 projects/programs in LLDCs for COVID-19 response. This includes projects under COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option for for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; under COVID-19 Rapid Response Program for Mongolia; Under the Emergency Assistance Loan/Grant for Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; Under Policy-Based Lending for Kyrgyzstan; Under Great Mekong Subregion Health Security Project and Quality Health Care Project for Lao PDR; Under COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program for Bhutan as well as providing quick-disbursing budget support loan and grants to procure medical supplies and expand the supply of essential medical goods, to procure medical supplies; Under COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support for Nepal, as well as support to the government help strengthen health systems, provision of loans and grants under COVID-19 pandemic response and grant to procure medical supplies.	2020
	ITU	Online trainings "Adopting networks and equipment to support e-health and COVID-19 response"	2020
	UNECE	Establishment of an Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group Meeting on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis: Gather representatives of ministries of transport, health and customs officials from across the ECE region and beyond to take stock of the challenges	2020-2021

ACTION AREAS	IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS ²	DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
		experienced by the inland transport sector in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, discuss possible issues in re-opening of cross-border traffic and exchange views on possible recommendations to increase transport authorities' preparedness for and resilience to future outbreaks. Ongoing UNECE-led process so far with a focus on the Euro-Asian region. Next informal advisory group meeting on 8 September 2020.	
	UNWTO	Share Tourism and COVID-19 Recovery Package	TBC
6.4. Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls	ESCAP	Provide support to Working Group on Gender and SDGs under the auspices of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).	2020-2021
	ESCAP	Implement the "Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship" programme, with Nepal as one of the six target countries.	2019-2023
	ESCAP	Implement project on E-Commerce Capacity Building for Women-led MSMEs for all three LLDCs of South Asia - Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal - as target countries so as to link them with local, regional and global supply chains.	2019-2022
	ISA	Enhance the role and participation of women scientists from LLDCs in deep-sea research	Ongoing
COORDINATION			
7.1. Coordinated follow-up and stakeholder networks	UN-OHRLLS, with support from RCs	Establish the LLDC National Focal Points network and facilitate its regular meetings	2021+
	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with DCO	Establish a network of LLDC Resident Coordinators (RCs) with the aim of supporting national level implementation of the VPoA and of the Midterm Review Political Declaration	2020+
	UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the LLDC Group Chair	Support the formal establishment of Group of Friends of LLDCs	2020-2021

V. Implementation and follow-up: Looking ahead

The Roadmap is developed by the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS) in consultation with other relevant UN system departments and agencies and other regional and international organizations who provided inputs. This Roadmap is a living document. It will evolve to reflect new activities of the UN system and to leverage new opportunities, in order to ensure that the UN system provides relevant and effective support to LLDCs and transit developing countries. Regular reviews of the Roadmap and its implementation will be undertaken until 2024, led by UN-OHRLLS, in the context of the inter-agency consultative group (IACG) on LLDCs. Progress on its implementation will be reported in the annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and will also be shared with Member States through different channels, such as for example during the LLDC Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers.

The key actions identified in this Roadmap and the concrete activities and deliverables of the UN system and other regional and international organizations along the priority areas will support accelerated progress in the achievement of the objectives of the VPoA and support the LLDCs and transit developing countries to realize their sustainable development ambitions. The upcoming ten-year review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action is the goalpost for the implementation of this Roadmap.

The development of the Roadmap is also particularly relevant in the context of the Decade for Action to deliver on the SDGs by 2030 and ensuring that no one is left behind. The 75th Anniversary of the United Nations on the theme 'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism' would also give impetus to all the stakeholders in the international arena to strive for collective action towards achievement of the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action.

ANNEX: Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024

United Nations

A/RES/74/15



General Assembly

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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2019

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/74/L.7)]

74/15. Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The General Assembly

Adopts the following political declaration:

Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

Preamble

1. We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and High Representatives, gathered at the United Nations on 5 and 6 December 2019 to review the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹ reaffirm our commitment to the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and we collectively commit to strengthened cooperation in the context of sustainable development for landlocked developing countries.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the full, effective and timely implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

¹ Resolution 69/137, annex II.

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Development² and which is in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,³ the Paris Agreement⁴ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁵ as well as with other international frameworks, such as the New Urban Agenda.⁶ Effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda are mutually reinforcing and crucial for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. We emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

4. We are committed in our endeavour to help to turn landlocked developing countries into land-linked countries; for this we must come together in durable, transparent, accountable and effective partnerships between landlocked developing countries and transit countries and their development partners, as well as with a range of stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth. We further reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to the achievement of the Vienna Programme of Action.

5. We recognize the importance of unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access for landlocked developing countries to and from the sea, on the basis of freedom of transit and other related matters, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law.

Review and assessment of progress, gaps and challenges

6. We take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action⁷ and recognize the many efforts at all levels made by landlocked developing countries and transit countries, with the support of development partners, and the progress achieved since 2014, building on the Almaty Programme of Action.⁸ At the same time, we remain concerned that the progress made is not enough for landlocked developing countries to achieve the Vienna Programme of Action targets and sustainable development. We note with concern that one third of the population of landlocked developing countries is still living in extreme poverty, the prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity persists, the average human development index of landlocked developing countries lags behind the world average and economic growth of landlocked developing countries has declined during the review period.

7. We commend those landlocked developing countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status.

8. We recognize that a key challenge faced by landlocked developing countries is the lack of reliable and regular data to inform policy and ensure follow-up, including on some of the specific objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action.

² Resolution 70/1.

³ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁴ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁵ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁶ Resolution 71/256, annex.

⁷ A/74/113.

⁸ Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

9. We recognize the progress that has been made by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in ratifying the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the revised Kyoto Convention,⁹ the TIR Convention¹⁰ and other relevant international conventions. We note, however, that there is a need for landlocked developing countries and transit countries to effectively implement their obligations under these conventions and agreements.

10. We welcome the recent developments among landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours in building transit transport and economic corridors. Progress has been made in reducing travel time and corresponding costs along corridors, significantly reducing the time spent at borders and at intermodal points.

11. Progress has been made in landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries towards the expansion and upgrading of railways, roads, ports, air transport and inland waterways. Some missing links have been closed, and regional integration has been strengthened, but limited connectivity of landlocked developing countries remains one of the main obstacles to their enhanced trade integration.

12. We note that infrastructure in landlocked developing countries for the production, supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services has been expanded and upgraded. However, more than 40 per cent of the population of landlocked developing countries still does not have access to electricity, and the rural-urban gap remains significant. The pace of completion of power projects is too slow.

13. We recognize that access to information and communications technologies in landlocked developing countries has increased. However, we note that landlocked developing countries continue to face major constraints that include infrastructural gaps and the relatively high cost of information and communications technology services, in particular accessing submarine cables.

14. The major challenges in infrastructure development include limited financial resources to close the significant infrastructure financing gaps, lack of capacity to develop bankable infrastructure projects, limited technologies and lack of resilient infrastructure.

15. We welcome efforts made by landlocked developing countries to enhance their participation in global trade, including through mainstreaming trade into their national strategies and updating their trade-related policies. However, we note that landlocked developing countries continue to face greater difficulties than coastal countries in expanding international trade. The competitiveness of landlocked developing countries remains limited owing to the high cost of trade, which is double that of transit developing countries. In that regard, we note with concern that the share of landlocked developing countries in global trade has declined and their share of global merchandise exports has decreased, while the total value of merchandise imports has increased.

16. We are concerned that most of the exports of landlocked developing countries remain highly concentrated on a few primary commodities and that service exports are still dominated by the tourism sector. The lack of diversification of exports of landlocked developing countries exacerbates their vulnerability to excessive price volatility and exogenous economic and environmental shocks.

⁹ Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2370, No. 13561).

¹⁰ Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1079, No. 16510).

17. We note the lack of availability of trade finance in landlocked developing countries. We reaffirm that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development.

18. We note with concern the lack of access to capital for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including women- and youth-owned enterprises, which affects overall private sector development and economic growth in landlocked developing countries. We are further concerned that landlocked developing countries still fall behind in their electronic commerce (e-commerce) readiness.

19. We recognize that the participation of landlocked developing countries in regional and subregional trade, transport and transit facilitation agreements and initiatives aimed at deepening regional integration, enhancing infrastructure connectivity and facilitating the movement of cargo across borders has increased. Landlocked developing countries have entered into bilateral and plurilateral trade, transport and transit-related agreements with their neighbours. In this regard, we take note of the entry into force of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

20. We are encouraged by signs that broader cooperation in areas such as investment, research and development and policies supportive of regional industrial development and regional connectivity is taking place both among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked developing countries and their neighbours.

21. Since 2014, many landlocked developing countries have placed structural economic transformation at the centre of their national development plans and adopted strategies for diversification and upgrading of their economies, industrialization, export promotion and private sector development, but landlocked developing countries have made limited advancement towards achieving structural transformation, still have limited manufacturing and industrial capacity to create high value added products, some landlocked developing countries even showing signs of de-industrialization of their economies.

22. We acknowledge the efforts by landlocked developing countries to support private sector development and emphasize that an enabling legal and regulatory environment for the local private sector is one of the most important requirements for promoting sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, developing an industrial base, attracting investment and bringing about structural transformation.

23. We express concern at the limited technological capabilities, low technology intensity and acquisition and low investments in research and development in landlocked developing countries.

24. Landlocked developing countries are highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change and remain heavily affected by desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss, drought and receding glaciers. We are concerned about the economic, social and environmental impacts of sudden- and slow-onset disasters in landlocked developing countries, as well as the impacts of disasters in transit countries on the economies of landlocked developing countries.

25. We note that lack of adequate financial resources and capacity constraints are some of the biggest challenges that landlocked developing countries face in their efforts to implement the Vienna Programme of Action and achieve sustained growth and sustainable development.

26. We recognize that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources,

both public and private, for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. We acknowledge the importance of cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks. We note that the average tax revenue in landlocked developing countries is not sufficient to meet development needs. We express concern that illicit financial flows have an adverse impact on domestic resource mobilization and on the sustainability of public finances in landlocked developing countries.

27. We commend the greater international attention that has been given to landlocked developing countries since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action, including increased official development assistance and aid for trade and South-South and triangular cooperation. We reaffirm the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for the landlocked developing countries' development. We welcome that official development assistance flows to landlocked developing countries have increased in real terms. At the same time, we note that much of the official development assistance continues to be concentrated in a few landlocked developing countries. We also express concern over the continued decline in foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries, which is an impediment to their economic growth.

Call for action to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action

28. Having noted the progress made and challenges encountered by landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we call for action in the following key areas.

29. We underscore the need to capture data to monitor the specific objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action and commit to providing landlocked developing countries with capacity-building support to strengthen their national statistical systems.

30. We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social and economic barriers to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights.

31. We underscore the importance of mobilizing adequate resources to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to support the landlocked developing countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets by 2030.

32. We call upon landlocked developing countries and transit countries to effectively implement their obligations under all relevant international, regional and bilateral agreements to improve transit in a manner consistent with their trade and development objectives.

33. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries should consider promoting a corridor approach to improve trade and transit transport. We call upon landlocked developing countries and transit countries to make additional efforts to reduce travel time along the corridors and to adopt an integrated and sustainable approach to the management of international transport corridors in order to avoid the duplication of efforts, to promote regional connectivity and to maximize the associated economic opportunities.

34. We call upon the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide, within their mandates, policy, analytical and technical support towards the development, functioning and management of corridors.

35. We encourage landlocked developing countries and transit countries to integrate the development, upgrading and maintenance of national and transboundary transport infrastructure into their national development strategies.
36. We call upon landlocked developing countries and transit countries, with the support of their development and trade partners, to develop regionally integrated, sustainable, climate- and disaster-resilient transport infrastructure and to close missing links in order to reduce the cost of doing business and increase intraregional trade.
37. We encourage landlocked developing countries and transit countries to create an enabling environment for public and private sustainable investment and infrastructure operations.
38. We encourage landlocked developing countries and transit countries to expand and upgrade supply, transmission and distribution infrastructure for electricity, including off-grid solutions, to accelerate the preparation of power projects, especially renewables, while acknowledging the role of all energy sources and technologies in the energy mix, to scale up projects on cross-border interconnectors and to improve transformational energy access and ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
39. We invite landlocked developing countries and transit countries to collaborate to establish information and communications technology infrastructure, applications and services with the support of Governments, the private sector, development partners, multilateral financial and development institutions and regional banks. The substantial digital divides between landlocked developing countries and the developed countries need to be addressed.
40. We call upon development partners, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and international and regional organizations to provide technical support to landlocked developing countries for the formulation and implementation of bankable infrastructure and transport development projects.
41. We encourage landlocked developing countries to continue to formulate policies and strategies aimed at diversifying their export structure and adding value to their exports in order to expand their participation in sustainable regional and global value chains.
42. We encourage landlocked developing countries, with the support of their development and trade partners, to reduce “before the border” trade costs by improving transport networks and customs procedures, as well as by the application of technology-driven and information and communications technology solutions to expedite international trade.
43. We reaffirm the importance of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation in addressing high trade and transit costs and call for full and timely implementation of the Agreement by all the members of the World Trade Organization. Landlocked developing countries should promptly notify their technical assistance needs. We also invite development partners and relevant organizations to enhance support to landlocked developing countries to implement their World Trade Organization commitments.
44. We call upon all Member States to enhance market access for exports from landlocked developing countries, except for arms and armaments. We also call upon development partners to support efforts by landlocked developing countries to diversify their exports, including through supporting their national export strategies and trade policies.

45. We call upon development partners and multilateral development banks to support landlocked developing countries in strengthening trade financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting trade finance facilitation programmes.

46. We underscore the potential for landlocked developing countries to facilitate their integration into regional and global value chains and to expand their trade capabilities and connectivity by strengthening productive linkages, supporting the development of supply chains within the region and improving the quality and the effective implementation of regional integration agreements.

47. We call upon the United Nations system, regional and international development partners and other international organizations to support landlocked developing countries and transit countries in leveraging the opportunities provided by regional initiatives and integration.

48. We encourage landlocked developing countries to promote innovative solutions in sectors such as agriculture, transport, information and communications, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education, and effective public-private partnerships through investments in education and skills development, including technical, vocational and tertiary education and training, while ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. We recognize that these investments are required to reduce economic volatility, enable landlocked developing countries to reap the demographic dividend, and achieve lifelong learning and broader human development.

49. We call upon landlocked developing countries to encourage private sector development by enhancing private sector capabilities, as well as improving economic governance and business regulations.

50. We are determined to build economies and societies in landlocked developing countries that are resilient to external economic shocks, disasters and the adverse impact of climate change and environmental degradation. We urge development partners, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to support landlocked developing countries' efforts to develop and implement nationally determined contributions and national long-term climate change strategies in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to develop tools to prevent and combat desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss, drought and receding glaciers, as well as to strengthen integrated water resources management, disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response, and early warning and early action systems.

51. We encourage development partners to support landlocked developing countries in building institutional and human capacities.

52. We call upon the United Nations system to provide assistance to countries graduating from the least developed country category in the implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner, and call upon development partners to support smooth transition.

53. We encourage landlocked developing countries to strengthen their services sector and enhance their efforts to integrate into e-commerce. In this regard, we encourage international partners to provide capacity-building to assist landlocked developing countries in addressing gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks and developing digital skills.

54. We encourage landlocked developing countries to develop national science, technology and innovation policies and to create enabling science, technology and innovation infrastructure. We invite development partners and international

organizations to support efforts by landlocked developing countries to establish or strengthen national and regional centres for science, technology and innovation development.

55. We welcome existing technology and research funds established by development partners and international and regional financial institutions, and encourage similar initiatives to support landlocked developing countries for a greater use and adaptation of technology.

56. We encourage landlocked developing countries to continue to make improvements in the regulatory environment for business, in particular for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. We also urge enhanced international and domestic investments in research and development in landlocked developing countries.

57. We encourage landlocked developing countries to strengthen their efforts in raising domestic resources, including through carrying out reforms in tax administration, broadening the tax base and strengthening domestic capital markets, and call upon the international community to assist these efforts in line with national priorities.

58. We call upon development partners to strengthen support to landlocked developing countries, taking into account all sources. At the same time, we encourage landlocked developing countries to better leverage official development assistance for attracting further finance from other sources, such as foreign direct investment, public-private sector partnerships and other sources of finance.

59. We encourage Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and call upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement.

60. We call upon development partners to continue to provide aid for trade to landlocked developing countries, consistent with World Trade Organization guidelines.

61. We call upon the developing and developed countries to continue to support landlocked developing countries through South-South and triangular cooperation in line with the respective modalities of cooperation.

62. We welcome the establishment of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and call upon all landlocked developing countries that have not done so to ratify or accede to the multilateral agreement for its establishment. We invite Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider making voluntary contributions to the Think Tank budget.

63. We call upon the United Nations system, including the regional economic commissions, as well as all relevant international and regional organizations, to continue to provide the support necessary to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

64. We call upon the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

65. We call upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize the resources necessary to enable the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit of the Office of the High Representative to fulfil its mandate in support of the landlocked developing countries.

Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

66. We invite the General Assembly to consider holding the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024.

*39th plenary meeting
5 December 2019*