

Inaugural meeting of the LLDCs National Focal Point Network

Session 1:

Enhancing national level implementation of the VPoA: The role of National Focal Points

16 June 2021

Palais des Nations – Room XXI – Geneva

UN-OHRLLS



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About the VPoA



Outcome of UN LLDC II Conference

Holistic and action-oriented Programme for 2014 to 2024

Integral part of the 2030 Agenda

Focuses on efficient transit and transport systems, structural transformation, competitiveness, trade, regional cooperation.

Aims to transform Landlocked countries to Land-linked economies



Key elements of TFA and VPoA

VPoA

- **Priority 1: Transit Policy Issues Actions**
 - Simplification and harmonization of regulations
 - Border and customs controls coordination
 - Simplification and harmonization of regulations
 - National multi-stakeholder mechanisms
- **Priority 3b: Trade Facilitation**
 - Establish national Trade Facilitation committees
 - Single windows, electronic processes and payment, OSBPs, AEOs, cooperation, etc. and share best practices
 - Simplify and harmonize rules and documentation
 - Ensure transparency on rules and fees
 - Partners to support Trade Facilitation activities, provide capacity building, technical assistance, regional aid for trade

TFA

Art 11: Freedom of transit

- Outlines formalities in connection with transit including fees and charges, separate infrastructure for goods in transit, Advance ruling for goods in transit, cooperation and coordination between countries to enhancing freedom of transit, establishment of national transit coordinators.
- **Art 23.2 National Committee on Trade Facilitation** (Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation...)
- **Article 10.4: Single Window** (Members shall endeavor to establish or maintain a single window)
- **Art 1, 2 and 3 on transparency of information**
- **Art 13.2 Assistance and support for capacity building**(should be provided to help developing and least-developed country Members implement the provisions of this Agreement..)



Key elements of TFA and VPoA

VPoA

- **Priority 4: Regional Integration and Cooperation**
 - Strengthen regional trade, transport, energy, ICT networks
 - Harmonize regional policies for competitiveness
 - Participate in regional integration frameworks
 - Transit countries to invest in regional connectivity and trade facilitation initiatives
 - Partners to support integration efforts, regional infrastructure development and sharing of best practices

TFA

- Art 8.2 Each Member shall, to the extent possible and practicable, cooperate on mutually agreed terms with other Members with whom it shares a common border with a view to coordinating procedures at border crossings to facilitate cross-border trade. Such cooperation and coordination may include:
 - (a) alignment of working days and hours;
 - (b) alignment of procedures and formalities;
 - (c) development and sharing of common facilities;
 - (d) joint controls;
 - (e) establishment of one stop border post control.
- Art 24.5 Members of a customs union or a regional economic arrangement may adopt regional approaches to assist in the implementation of their obligations under this Agreement including through the establishment and use of regional bodies



Facilitating VPoA implementation: Key stakeholders

LLDCs

UNGA

UN-OHRLLS

Inter-agency
Consultative
Group

Resident
Coordinator
Office

Development
Partners

Transit
Countries

Private
Sector

NTFC



“At the national level, Governments are invited to mainstream the present Programme of Action into their national, and sectorial development strategies for its effective implementation” VPoA Paragraph 74

Establish National coordination mechanisms where appropriate to oversee implementation to reduce duplication, improve coordination



2020 OHRLLS desk review & survey

1. Desk review of development strategies.
2. Half of the LLDCs responded to questionnaire.
3. Results showed that most LLDCs have worked or are working to integrate or reflect the VPoA priorities into the National Development Plans.
4. Results showed LLDCs established a Formal body to oversee the implementation of the VPoA – in the form of a focal point Ministry, or a committee eg Trade Facilitation Committee, or a working Group.

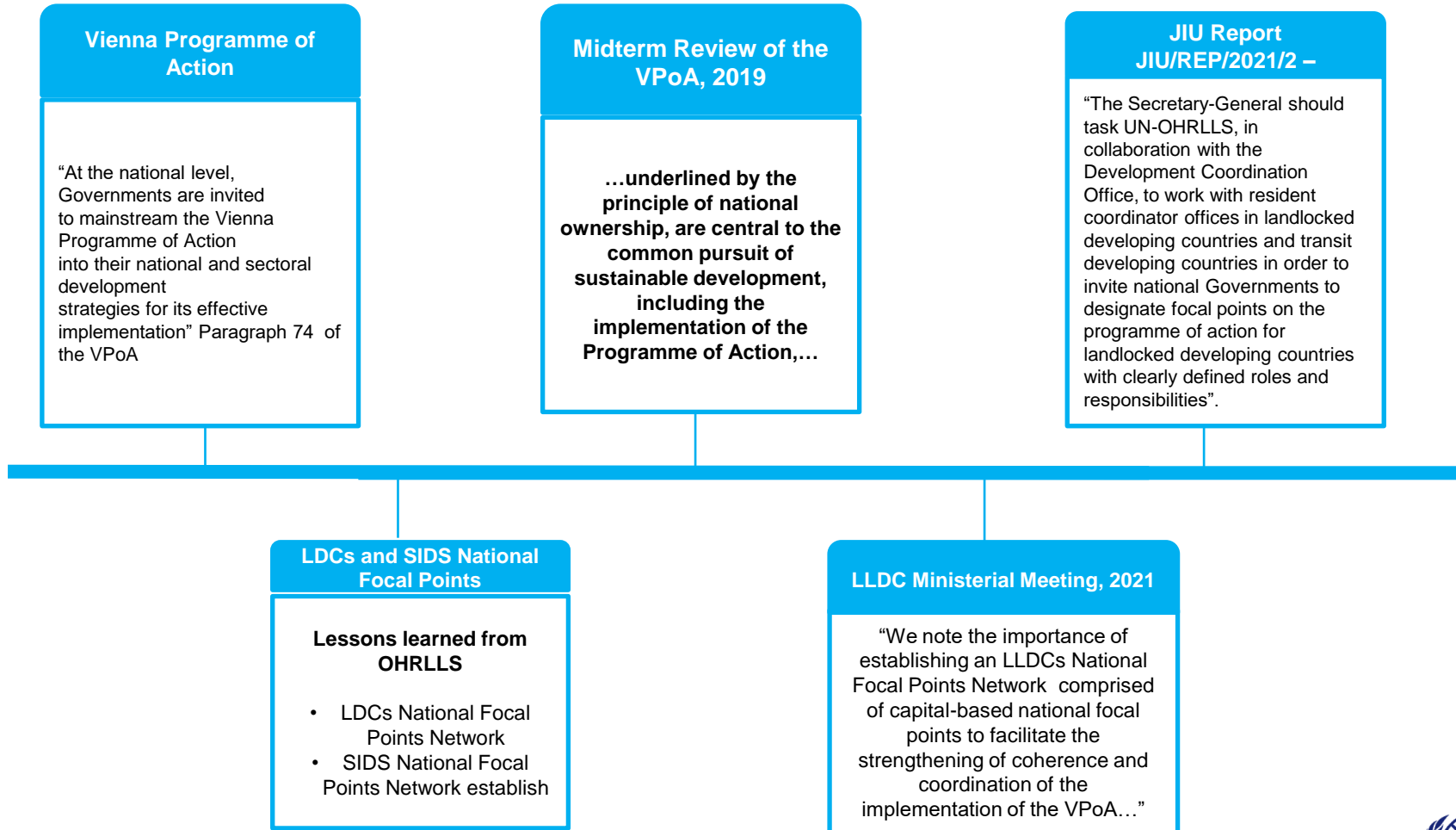


Challenges - National level implementation

- Disconnect or delays between Capitals & Global Processes
- Lack of coordination with all the relevant stakeholders
- Reporting delays and underreporting
- Limited engagement with resident coordinators and country teams and limited knowledge on the VPoA among key players
- Limited human and financial resources to implement the VPoA and attend events.
- Occurrence of disasters



Mandate to establish NFPs



Main Functions of NFPs

- Coordinate national level implementation of the VPoA and TFA.
- Liaison between New York and the Capital including with relevant stakeholders.
- Facilitate mainstreaming of the Programme of Action for LLDCs in national development Strategies.
- Facilitate building coherent national, regional and global monitoring, including reporting.
- Support efforts to raise awareness about the VPoA at national level.
- Disseminate information on opportunities for TACB.
- Participate in a forum for LLDCs NFPs.



Modalities Of Operation



**Regular
meetings of
the NFP
Network**

**Platform for
exchange and
sharing of
experiences**

**NFP Network
Terms of
Reference**

**Regular
engagement
with RCO**

**OHRLLS acts
as Secretariat**



Way Forward

Some key questions for consideration and discussion during the last session:

- How to strengthen the role of NFPs to enhance implementation of the VPoA and build coherence with the 2030 Agenda at national level?
- How can we achieve a vibrant LLDCs National Focal Points network?
- How can the NFP contribute to the 3rd UN Conference on LLDCs?
- How NFPs can harness opportunities to accelerate national level implementation of the VPoA?



Way forward cont...

- **Committee on Trade Facilitation (TF Committee)**

The committee meets at least once a year to consult on any matters related to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives.

- **Dedicated Session on Transit**

The Committee of Trade Facilitation agreed during the review of the TFA to amend the Committee's spring meeting agenda, until next review of the TFA is completed, to include a Dedicated Session to discuss transit issues of landlocked country members
The first session was held in April 2022

The participation of the NFP is in these meetings particularly important.



Thank You



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supporting

Least Developed Countries

Landlocked Developing Countries

Small Island Developing States

United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States