



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

(UN-OHRLLS)

**Report of the Seventh Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on
the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of
Action for LLDCs**

Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters, New York

14 November 2018

A. Introduction

The Seventh Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs was held in New York on 14 November 2018. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). The IACG meeting provided a platform for the participating organizations to update each other on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA), as well as consult on the organizational and substantive preparations for the midterm review of the VPoA.

The meeting was chaired and opened by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The meeting was attended by participants from 26 different institutions as shown in the list of participants in annex 1. The meeting followed the agenda presented in annex 2.

B. Opening Session

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General, and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS welcomed all participants to the meeting and underscored that the meeting's agenda will be centered on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and in particular the preparations for the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the VPoA. She expressed appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Paraguay for attending the meeting and stated that Paraguay will continue its role as Chair of the LLDC group during the midterm review.

Ms. 'Utoikamanu remarked that despite faced with challenges, LLDCs have made progress in implementing priority areas of the VPoA, such as improving road, rail, energy and ICT infrastructure as well as increasing accession to key trade and transport facilitation agreements, including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which has been ratified by 24 out of 26 LLDCs that are WTO members. Further, LLDCs are taking steps to deepen regional integration through undertakings such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the African Continental Free Trade Area. She noted with concern that LLDCs continue to account for less than 1% of global trade, have limited manufacturing and industrial capacity and remain challenged by the large financial gap needed to close transport infrastructure gaps. In this regard, she stressed that continued and enhanced investment and technical assistance in the areas of infrastructure and development, trade facilitation, regional integration and structural transformation are prerequisites for achieving the priorities of the VPoA. Strong political will, strengthened partnerships and mutual accountability, she remarked, are required to improve the lives of over 500 million people living in LLDCs and to attain the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Highlighting the importance of collaboration, she emphasized that through inter-agency coordination agencies can explore synergies, avoid duplication and effectively deliver for the benefit of LLDCs. She expressed gratitude to the organizations present for their attention given to the development concerns of LLDCs. She recalled relevant international fora that addressed issues relevant to the LLDCs, including the 2018 High-level Political Forum, the Financing for Development Follow-up Forum, the Global Infrastructure Forum, the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee and the World Investment Forum, where OHRLLS participated and organized a side event. Ms. 'Utoikamanu reminded attendees of upcoming events, including the COP 24 UNFCCC Conference, the International Migration Conference, the South-

South Cooperation Conference and the four high-level events scheduled during next year's General Assembly meeting. She stressed the need to support LLDCs in ensuring that their concerns and needs and voices and heard in these fora.

She informed the meeting that the midterm review of the VPoA is scheduled to take place next year, with New York as the fall back venue unless another country offers to host it. She reiterated that OHRLLS was mandated to coordinate the preparatory process and updated the participants on the progress so far. With respect to preparations at the global level, OHRLLS organized a Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs on Trade and Transport in May in Kazakhstan, followed by the Inaugural Conference of the International Think Tank for LLDCs and a number of other events. With respect to regional preparations, OHRLLS in collaboration with regional commissions is fixing the details of the three regional review meetings and have already set the Euro-Asia regional review meeting for 11 and 12 February 2019. With respect to the national level, the LLDCs have been undertaking their national review processes. Ms. 'Utoikamanu encouraged the organizations present to continue to provide targeted support to LLDCs in implementing the VPoA and stressed that OHRLLS will continue to mobilize the UN system and international support for the effective implementation of the VPoA. She was hopeful that the review will give the international community a chance to renew their efforts and direction in line with achieving the VPoA's goals.

The Under-Secretary-General indicated that OHRLLS will continue to follow up on the UN Development System's reform process led by the Secretary-General. In concluding, she reaffirmed the importance of supporting LLDCs in keeping engaged in the reform processes.

In his remarks, **H.E. Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations and Chair of the LLDC Group**, emphasized that LLDCs deserve special attention and that specialized UN agencies and international organizations have a critical role to play in helping LLDCs overcome the challenges of landlockedness. He reaffirmed that continued implementation of the VPoA and the upcoming midterm review of the VPoA are high on the Group's agenda. He noted that the LLDC Foreign Ministers, during their annual meeting during the General Assembly, called for support of the UN and other international organizations in a number of key areas for implementing the VPoA. On behalf of the LLDC Group, he encouraged the agencies present to collaborate with the recently inaugurated International Think Tank for LLDCs.

He called on the inter-agency group to continue advocating for the needs of LLDCs and to actively engage in the midterm review. Specifically, he asked the agencies present to contribute inputs to the preparations of the midterm review's outcome document. He expressed his appreciation to those organizations that have already helped organize pre-conference events.

The Ambassador explained that Member States are currently negotiating the annual Second Committee resolution on the Follow-up to the Vienna Programme of Action and that there should, therefore, be more clarity on all aspects of the midterm review soon. He informed that Paraguay has offered to host the Latin American regional review meeting. He concluded by again encouraging all agencies present to actively and meaningfully contribute to the midterm review.

C. Update on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and consultations on the intergovernmental preparations for the midterm review of the implementation of the VPoA

Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, UN-OHRLLS firstly thanked all the agencies for contributing to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the VPoA, which was published in August 2018. She noted with concern that the report's results are indicative of mixed progress by LLDCs in achieving the priorities of the VPoA. She cited the main trends in the LLDCs, including the high rate of ratification, but low rate of implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; low trade integration; undiversified exports; inadequate infrastructure, particularly in the transport, energy and ICT sectors. Further, although LLDCs are taking steps to structurally transform and diversify their economies, the overall value-added of manufacturing sectors in LLDCs remains low, and the overall means of implementation remain inadequate, given the LLDCs' special needs.

Ms. Schroderus-Fox proceeded to outline the intergovernmental preparations for the midterm review, which she highlighted will be held no later than December 2019. She accentuated that UN Member States are presently negotiating the annual LLDC resolution, which will include detailed information about the midterm review such as its exact time, number of days of meetings, participation and consultations on the outcome document. She informed that the outcome document of the midterm review will be an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed political declaration, with the informal consultations facilitated by the Ambassadors of Bhutan and Austria who were recently appointed by the President of the General Assembly.

She mentioned that the preparatory process at the global level commenced with the meeting of LLDC Ministers of Trade and Transport in Kazakhstan in May which was followed by Inaugural meeting of the Think Tank for LLDCs in June. In addition, she noted that OHRLLS organized thematic side events in the sidelines of international meetings, including an event on sustainable aviation for LLDCs' connectivity, accelerating energy transition in LLDCs, migration and climate change, and promoting investment in LLDCs. At the regional level, she highlighted that OHRLLS is in close consultations with ESCAP, ECE, ECA and ECLAC to organize the three regional review meetings, which will occur in the first half of 2019. The regional meetings, she underlined, will be organized in the context of OHRLLS' project entitled: "Strengthening the capacity of LLDCs under the Belt and Road Initiative to design and implement policies that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs," selected for funding under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund. At the national level, she informed that LLDCs were asked to prepare national reports, of which Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia and Nepal have already submitted theirs. In concluding her statement, Ms. Schroderus-Fox briefed that the national reports will be consolidated into a compilation of best practices in the implementation of the VPoA.

Mr. Francis Ikome, the representative of UNECA, emphasized that the VPoA is particularly important for Africa because the continent is home to 17 LLDCs. He informed that UNECA is working to support the African LLDCs in addressing their specific needs and problems. **Ms. Jane Karonga of UNECA**, mentioned that there has been some progress in terms of regional infrastructure in Africa that links landlocked countries and listed the following ongoing projects: the North-South Corridor Programme in Eastern and Southern Africa; the Walvis Bay Corridor in Southern Africa; the navigation line project, linking Lake Victoria and Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) through the Nile and the Africa Clean Energy Corridor (ACEC) expected to facilitate cross border trade in green and renewable energy in a network from Cape Town to

Cairo. Other projects include the West African rail network to connect Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo; the grand Ethiopian renaissance dam; the Mombasa-Kigali Railway Project; the Grand Inga Dam in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and the Bagamoyo Port in Tanzania. She made a specific reference to Ethiopia, where there is an emerging focus on public-funded infrastructure to encourage the movement of goods, services and people.

She stated that African LLDCs contributed around 0.21% of world exports in 2017 and that the share of African LLDCs exports in total LLDCs exports has increased since the early 2010s. In terms of GDP growth, she noted that African LLDCs continue to outperform the African average and indeed that of all the developing regions apart from East and South Asia, with growth rising from 4.2% in 2016 to 4.4% in 2017. She explained that this trend was underpinned by strong growth in countries like Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Niger and Mali over the 2017 period. She also brought attention to the African Continental Free Trade Area which, by opening up the continent, has the potential to be very beneficial for African LLDCs. She underlined that ECA works with both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. She said that ECA has been developing an integrated toolkit that allows member states to see the extent of integrating between these two agendas and a member state's own national development plan. She suggested that this integrated toolkit could be extended to the VPoA in the future.

Mr. Francis Ikome then elaborated on ECA's contributions to the midterm review. He mentioned tentative plans to have the African region's review meeting, as well as potential side events, dovetail with the ECA Conference of Ministers (which is to be held in late March in Morocco). He said ECA is working with UN-OHRLS to work out the details. Moreover, he informed that the recruitment process for a consultant to prepare the African region's review report is ongoing. Finally, he noted that AfDB and AUC have expressed interest in collaborating in the midterm review process and indicated that effective interventions are currently being explored.

In a written statement, **UNESCAP** provided an overview of Commission's support to LLDCs; including in the context of VPoA midterm review: an expert group meeting organized in partnership with UNECE and UNCTAD to review progress and identify challenges in implementing the VPoA in the Asia-Pacific Region (September 2018), and a forthcoming regional review meeting of the VPoA, organized together with UN-OHRLS to be held in February 2019.

In the same vein, the statement underscored ESCAP's efforts to support the priority areas of the VPoA. With respect to Priority 1, ESCAP undertook a comprehensive review of progress made towards fundamental transit policy issues. With respect to Priority 1 and 2, ESCAP authored a publication "Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific 2017", initiated and supported the Intergovernmental Agreements on Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports, and developed Access to Physical Infrastructure Index (in CSNDR 2017). The Commission supported the implementation of "Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (2017-2021)". Such programmes, the statement emphasized, will help to integrate different modes of transport, connect industry clusters, synchronize supply chains and contribute to the enhancements of lives along the corridors.

With respect to Priority 3, ESCAP contributed to the Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs on Trade and Transport in May 2018. With respect to Priority 4, ESCAP, in coordination with UNECE, organized the annual SPECA Economic Forums which discussed topics of concern to LLDCs. With respect to Priority 5, ESCAP's CSNDR 2019, to be launched in May 2019, studies the linkages between structural economic

transformation and poverty reduction, discussing among others, productive capacity, rural development and human capital. With respect to Priority 6, ESCAP's CSNR 2017 centered on the investment requirements to close existing infrastructure gaps and identified financing sources and instruments available for LLDCs.

Mr. Roel Janssens, the representative of UNECE, conveyed the findings of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) report, which focuses on inland modes of transport and is of particular relevance to the VPoA. He elaborated on the report's conclusion that road and rail transportation along Euro-Asian corridors supplement rather than compete with maritime transport, providing alternative delivery options, especially for high value and time-sensitive cargo, including in the context of growing e-commerce. He also discussed the development of container 'block trains' as a result of the EATL, which have significantly increased the number of services and freight volumes along EATL routes, especially for the IT and car manufacturing industries.

He described the 'Making Euro-Asian Transport Corridors Operational' conference that was held in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2018 to conclude EATL Phase III. He mentioned the range of recommendations that were drawn up at this conference by public and private sector stakeholders, including: the need to further eliminate bottlenecks on EATL routes; develop logistics centers, hubs and dry ports and modernize border crossing points; introduce public-private partnerships to fund transport infrastructure; reform of the railway sector; enhancement of efforts in digitalization, standardization and harmonization of trade and transport documents; improvement of performance monitoring on EATL corridors and strengthening of coordination efforts amongst different stakeholders involved. He noted the discrepancy between Eastbound and Westbound cargo traffic flows, especially with regard to railway traffic.

Mr. Janssens went on to discuss UNECE's contributions to the Vienna Programme of Action. He brought attention to the expert group meeting aimed at assessing the status of implementation of the VPoA in LLDCs in the Euro-Asian and Asia-Pacific regions, held in Kazakhstan in September 2018 and organized by the UNECE, together with ESCAP and UNCTAD. He also underlined that UNECE is working alongside ESCAP and UN-OHRLLS to organize the regional review meeting in Bangkok in February 2019. He mentioned that UNECE may hold a side event in the margins of the regional review and has already submitted a proposal for a side event at the global midterm review meeting, potentially about the digitalization of transport documents. He also informed that UNECE is an implementing partner, alongside UN-OHRLLS, in the transport connectivity project for LLDCs organized under the Belt and Road initiative.

He then spoke about the UNDA-funded "Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries" project, which will last from September 2018 to December 2020 and focus on the development of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators. He said this would be implemented jointly by UNECE, ESCWA and ECLAC, in close coordination with UN-OHRLLS. Based on the indicators countries will be able to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of their respective transport systems and the level of compliance of national administrative and legal frameworks with UN legal instruments in the field of transport. The project, which is in direct support of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will strengthen the capacities of four landlocked and one transit country (i.e. Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Paraguay and Jordan) to design and implement an evidence-based transport policy framework. Finally, he mentioned a recent study by UNECE entitled "Innovative ways

for financing transport infrastructure”, highlighting the publication as a potential source of inspiration for LLDCs given its relevance to VPoA Priority 2.

Mr. Fabio Weikert, the representative of UNECLAC, recalled that during the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, held in May 2018, ECLAC again urged Member States to mainstream the VPoA into their national and sectoral development strategies and encouraged regional and sub-regional organizations to provide technical and financial support for the VPoA, as well as encouraging private sector contribution.

He asserted that ECLAC will provide support to the Government of Paraguay in organizing the regional review meeting. In addition, ECLAC is partnering with OHRLLS to select consultants who will work on the regional midterm report. Highlighting the importance of harnessing synergies between programs for LLDCs in the region and other initiatives, Mr. Weikert stressed that ECLAC has undertaken projects aimed at developing an information system on inland waterway transport for five countries in South America, including Paraguay and Bolivia.

He explained that ECLAC, along with ECE and ESCWA are cooperating entities of a UNDA Project focused on sustainable transport connectivity and the implementation of transport related SDGs in selected LLDCs and transit countries. He noted that the project will aim to strengthen capacities of five LLDCs, including Paraguay, to design and implement an evidence-based policy framework and to support the application of transport connectivity indicators in national policy design. Mr. Weikert concluded his statement by underscoring that ECLAC will continue to assist countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to build institutional capacity, technical know-how and conduct analytical studies concerning the provision of public utility and infrastructure services, in line with the SDGs.

In her statement, **Ms Daria Shatskova, the representative of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)**, underlined that LLDCs are a priority to the EIF and account for close to half of the EIF's funding to Africa and Asia. She proceeded to delineate a number of initiatives EIF has undertaken to enhance the development of LLDCs, which include: coordinating with UNDP and the South Sudanese Government to develop trade policies across different sectors of South Sudan. She affirmed that trade costs, including transport logistics, information and transactions remain a concern to traders in LLDCs; in this regard, with the support of the EIF, the World Bank and TradeMark East Africa, Rwanda has built cross-border markets on the borders of Uganda and DRC, where the majority of traders are women. In addition, the EIF is collaborating with UNCTAD to develop transit corridors in West and East Africa.

Recognizing the growing potential of digital technologies in facilitating development, she accentuated that the EIF has supported UNCTAD-led Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments of LLDCs including Burkina Faso and Nepal, while studies in Lesotho and Malawi are ongoing. Ms. Shatskova also mentioned that the EIF supports Nepal and other LDCs in developing a paperless trade initiative led by UNESCAP and emphasized that the EIF experiences with Bhutan indicate that digital connectivity can reap benefits in ensuring transparency when it comes to pricing in the agriculture sector. In concluding her remarks, she highlighted that in regard to value addition in agriculture, exports of sesame seeds have doubled in value in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia is upgrading its honey sector and Lesotho has opened new markets with modern equipment for processing, packaging and storing fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Rainer Lanz, the representative of WTO, explained that he would focus his intervention on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and on Aid for Trade flows in LLDCs. He noted that, out of the 26 LLDC WTO members, 24 have ratified the TFA and only 2 (Burundi and

Tajikistan) have not as of yet. He pointed out that in total 139 WTO Members have now ratified the Agreement, representing 85% of the Membership. He described the progress that has been made regarding the notification of implementation commitments - all 26 LLDCs have made category A notifications and 20 LLDCs have notified articles under categories B and C. He explained that LLDCs have notified 34% of articles under category A, 20% under category B and 29% under category C, with 17% of articles still to be notified. However, he underlined that, so far, only 5 LLDCs have submitted the transparency notifications mandated by the TFA.

Mr. Lanz noted that WTO members agreed to a 2018-2019 Aid for Trade Work Programme, entitled "Supporting Economic Diversification and Empowerment for Inclusive, Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade". He explained that it covers issues such as effective participation of women and young men, addressing supply-side capacity constraints, industrialization and structural transformation, digital connectivity and access to energy. He updated the organizations present on the progress that has been made in terms of preparations for the Aid for Trade Global Review 2019, which will take place on 3-5 July 2019 and urged for any proposals to organize sessions during the review to be submitted no later than 31 March 2019. He noted that the Aid for Trade Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise through questionnaires has been finalized. He explained that, in 2016, LLDCs received \$6 billion in aid for trade, and that the share of LLDCs in overall AFT was 17% in 2016 - slightly higher than in previous years. He specified that 34% of these AFT flows went to agriculture, 26% to transport and storage infrastructure, 24% to energy infrastructure and 2.5% to trade facilitation.

Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, the representative of UNCTAD, informed that UNCTAD seeks to address three key challenges affecting LLDCs, which are: enhancing export diversification with production of higher value-added goods, building productive capacities, and improving their trade-transport logistics, including the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. She noted that UNCTAD is assisting LLDCs through its Productive Capacities Index (PCI) which will enable LLDCs to put productive capacities at the center of their respective domestic development strategies, an undertaking that will improve competitiveness in international markets.

She highlighted that UNCTAD organized national capacity building workshops in Botswana, Lao PDR and Rwanda to evaluate how the PCI can be used in policy-making; during the workshops, the PCIs were validated, development strategies were discussed and limitations were identified. She described the PCI as a *'state-of-art statistical and benchmarking instrument'* that identifies and raises awareness of critical sectors that hamper development and validate pre-existing policies enacted by Botswana, Lao PDR and Rwanda. She noted that the workshops indicate that Lao PDR scores low in the transport infrastructure, institutions, structural change and ICT sectors; Botswana lags behind in the physical infrastructure and the agriculture sectors; and Rwanda remains challenged by low productive capacities and structural transformation of the economy.

She also briefed the meeting about UNCTAD's efforts to enhance export diversification and potential market mapping in LLDCs, drawing attention to the study: "Fostering Structural Transformation and Export Diversification in Selected Asian Landlocked Developing Countries" (Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia). The study revealed that a strategic approach to FDI and domestic investment is required to tap into the potential of LLDCs to enhance export diversification. She highlighted that, in line with this, UN-ESCAP and OHRLLS made contributions to a sub-regional workshop on this topic. Ms. Carpentier mentioned that UNCTAD aims to develop the fisheries sectors of LLDCs through a project entitled: "Building the Capacities of Selected LDCs to Upgrade and Diversify their Fish Exports," which has provided support to Uganda, Burundi and Zimbabwe. She concluded her remarks by highlighting

that the mentioned countries have benefited from training courses offered at the Asia Regional Center of Excellence in Vietnam.

Ms. Hong Nguyen, the representative of WCO, elaborated on the Mercator Programme, the WCO's strategic initiative aimed at assisting governments worldwide in implementing the WTO's TFA in a uniform manner. She noted that, during the previous financial year, over 150 TFA-related missions were carried out under the Mercator Programme, based on requests from WCO Members. She highlighted that the areas in which the largest number of requests has been received are: Authorized Economic Operators, Risk Management, Post-Clearance Audit and the Time Release Study.

She then described transit-related workshops co-organized by the WCO: the first held in Benin in April 2018 for the WCO West and Central Africa region; the second in Paraguay in May 2018 for the WCO South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean (AMS) region. She explained that, during these workshops, the WCO presented the guiding principles for the establishment of efficient and effective transit regimes, as outlined by the WCO Transit Guidelines. She noted that many best practices were shared by participants, measures for further improvement of the various aspects of transit in the regions were discussed and strategic areas for further work were outlined. She concluded by mentioning the upcoming regional workshop on transit, which will be held on 13-15 November 2018, this time for selected members of the EUR and AP regions. By the end of the financial year 2018-2019, all WCO regions would have benefitted from the transit workshop activities.

Ms. Petal Thomas, the representative of UNFPA, stated that UNFPA engages with LLDCs in these sectors: health, adolescence, youth, gender equality, women's empowerment and population dynamics. She noted that in Eastern Europe, UNFPA has assisted in implementing youth friendly policies; in Latin America, UNFPA has assisted Bolivia and Paraguay in strengthening institutions for the benefit of indigenous peoples; in East Asia, UNFPA has assisted in promoting women's reproductive rights; and in Africa, UNFPA works with LLDCs to eliminate gender-based violence.

Ms. Sitara Syed, the representative of UNDP, informed that UNDP is present on the ground in all of the LLDCs. She noted that two of UNDP's priorities - with regard to the SDGs and to energy - are closely linked to the VPoA. She explained that, since 2016, UNDP has helped 12 LLDCs to mainstream the SDGs in national development policies and identify priority areas where accelerated progress could result in better achievement of SDGs. She illustrated this with examples from Burkina Faso, Armenia and Mongolia. Moreover, she said that UNDP is working with 9 LLDCs in the area of energy and access to renewable energy.

Ms. Eunice Kamwendo of UNDP added that much of UNDP's work is grounded in the fact that many of the LLDCs are countries with multiple layers of challenges - for example, they are LDCs as well as LLDCs. She emphasized that UNDP is supporting the LLDCs for example with structural transformation and means of implementation. She gave the example of UNDP's work with UNECA in supporting LLDCs in Africa to ensure that regional integration proceeds effectively. She mentioned a regional meeting on this topic to be held in Rwanda in December, as well as one on structural challenges and transformation in Africa, scheduled for January 2019 in Senegal. When it comes to means of implementation, she brought attention to a project that UNDP is undertaking with the OECD on 'tax inspectors without borders' including in LLDCs and LDCs, with the aim of increasing public resources in these countries. Furthermore, she underlined UNDP's commitment to promoting South-South cooperation and facilitating the transfer of best practices between countries. On this note, she mentioned a global meeting that UNDP held last

November in Kazakhstan during which many ideas were exchanged, particularly between countries in Central Asia.

In her remarks, **Ms. Kadiatou Sall-Beye, the representative of ITU**, outlined the agency's achievements towards the implementation of the VPoA, noting that ITU has mainstreamed the needs of the LLDCs in all its activities to support their ICT developments. She informed that in Rwanda, ITU implemented the Evaluation of the Wireless Broadband project in May 2018; in Botswana, ITU established a Communications Computer Incident Response Team to tackle cyber threats; in the Kyrgyz Republic, ITU provided six IT training courses to teachers in remote areas; in 2018, ITU organized a workshop for the Commonwealth of Independent States, centered on Big Data and Cloud Computing; and in Zimbabwe, ITU leverages ICT and developed an online interactive platform for the economic empowerment of low-income women.

She further noted that ITU's aim to foster effective partnerships with governments, the private sector, UN agencies and other stakeholders is reflected in ongoing partnership projects, such as for example in Zimbabwe through project to identify national development agendas in line with the SDGs, and to assist the country in formulating projects to integrate telecommunication and ICT; as well as through a joint planned event with OHRLLS entitled: "Strengthening ICT Connectivity and digital inclusion in LLDCs," which will be held in 2019 during the World Summit in Information Society. She emphasized that ITU has adopted a resolution entitled: "Special measures for the LLDCs and SIDS for access to international optical fiber networks" and has published two reports on ICT's connectivity challenges and opportunities in Bolivia and Paraguay. In concluding her remarks, Ms. Sall-Beye reaffirmed ITU's support to LLDCs in promoting sustainable development and building a more inclusive digital world.

Ms. Riefqah Jappie, the representative of ITC, explained that ITC helps LLDCs to address trade-related constraints by providing tailor-made solutions in the form of country-specific or region-specific programmes, usually in partnership with other organizations. She listed the key focus areas of these programmes: supporting regional integration; providing trade and market intelligence; strengthening trade and investment support institutions; and improving the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises to trade. She drew attention to ITC's 2017 SME Competitiveness Outlook, which focused on regional trade as a door to global trade and revealed that LLDCs face additional challenges as compared to other countries, most notably due to poor connectivity, both in terms of physical infrastructure and e-connectivity. She alluded to ITC's e-solutions programme, which is helping many LLDCs become better connected electronically. She also said that ITC is undertaking projects which tackle non-tariff measures and introduce the business perspective on trade facilitation.

She noted that ITC is currently working with IOM on a regional project within Africa which addresses cross-border trade facilitation for small businesses. She then stressed ITC's support for the African Continental Free Trade Area, portraying it as a means of combining openness and inclusiveness with trade and investment, under a regional lens, informing that ITC launched a business guide to the ACFTA. To give an in-depth example of ITC's work in LLDCs, Ms. Jappie focused specifically on ITC programmes in Zambia which are closely linked to the priorities of the VPoA. She indicated that ITC supports Zambia in terms of South-South cooperation, working with Zambia on investment from China to improve value addition and spur economic transformation, helping Zambia improve the quality of its cotton and enhance regional trade links for cotton, and create business links with other markets abroad. She emphasized the importance of targeting vulnerable individuals and informed that Zambia has now launched its own chapter of the flagship ITC initiative 'She Trades', which aims to connect women to

markets. She ended with a reference to the World Export Development Forum which ITC and the Zambian government co-hosted in September 2018, on the theme of scaling up through trade.

Mr. Gustavo Katz Braga, the representative of CFC, noted with concern the challenges faced by LLDCs including reliance on limited number of commodities and limited capacities and structural weaknesses, which he said, hinder their ability to add meaningful value to their exports, diversify their products and markets and leave them highly exposed to commodity price volatility. In this regard, he informed the participants that CFC undertakes initiatives that reduce vulnerability of entrepreneurs in LLDCs to the commodities market, by supporting them in implementing high-impact driven projects addressing the areas of concern, such as productivity, value addition, export barriers mitigation.

He explained that since 2012 CFC operates on the basis of an Open call system, allowing public and private entities to submit proposals for CFC's consideration. He mentioned that CFC developed an assessment framework to evaluate how the projects are contributing to the SDGs, with specific metrics for portfolio-wide reporting on SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10 and other SDGs specific to the projects undertaken. He emphasized that currently CFC has 9 LLDC-specific projects approved valued at USD 19.5 million, of which USD 9.6 million refers to CFC contribution, covering commodities such as soybeans, potatoes, coffee, maize, etc. He highlighted that CFC aims to improve the impact investment industry in LLDCs in order to attract more capital and to establish a forum for experience sharing. In concluding his remarks, he stated that investment in commodity driven development is required for sustainable economic development in LLDCs.

Ms. Eva Kiegele, the representative of WHO, updated the participants on WHO's contributions to the VPoA. She noted that WHO has offices in all LLDCs and that 70% of LLDCs have now developed at least one Country Cooperation Strategy to guide WHO's work. She indicated that WHO distributed over US \$500 million between January 2016 and December 2017 to support health development in LLDCs, with almost half of this going to three LLDCs. She pointed out that there were, on average, 48 backstopping missions per LLDC from different WHO levels between January 2015 and October 2016. She mentioned that WHO has provided emergency health support in 22 LLDCs and that a donor coordination mechanism for health exists in 78% of LLDCs, heavily supported by WHO country offices. She said that all LLDCs have received grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, whereas 18 are eligible for support from Gavi and 6 are in the process of transitioning out of Gavi, as of 2018. She emphasized that WHO country offices cooperate with the UN system to address health issues in the LLDCs, with Joint National/UN Steering Committees present in 19 LLDCs and Integrated Strategic Frameworks present in 8 LLDCs. She concluded with an affirmation of WHO's commitment to supporting the LLDCs.

Ms. Claudia Linke Heep, the representative of UNIDO, indicated that the agency's support to LLDCs aims to facilitate the emergence of an inclusive and sustainable industrial sector, specific to individual national circumstances. As such UNIDO is working with LLDCs to foster trade capacity building, investment promotion, renewable energy, energy efficiency, eco-industrial parks and regional and global value chains in order to improve competitiveness and increase integration in international markets. She highlighted that UNIDO has technical assistance and capacity building programmes in all the LLDCs, and comprehensive country programmes in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Moldova, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe; these programmes, she said, are linked to the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

She also noted that UNIDO contributes technical expertise to mobilize funds through energy-related projects that intend to support the emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency markets in many

LLDCs. With respect to trade capacity building and value chain strengthening, UNIDO has undertaken projects such as the \$3.7m ENPARD project in Armenia, the \$2m project focused on the development of aquaculture and fisheries value chains in Ethiopia and the \$2.2m project on enhanced local value addition and strengthening value chains in South Sudan. With respect to food security and the income of the rural population, UNIDO has established a project that up-scales fishery practices from artisanal to commercial orientated in order to elevate the fisheries sector into a primary source of livelihood in LLDCs such as South Sudan.

On accelerating industrialization and meeting SDG 9, she said that UNIDO established the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP) which creates a multi-stakeholder partnership and builds synergies between government and development partners in their industrial development efforts. Ms. Link Heep cited several country-specific examples such as the European Union's approved programme: "Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation (LISEC) in Ethiopia", and the PCP model in Kyrgyzstan. She called on UN agencies to support the PCP, which she underscored is in high demand and above UNIDO's current capacity. Ms. Linke Heep proceeded to highlight activities that UNIDO has contributed to, including the First International Agro-Industry Investment Forum in Addis Ababa in October 2016; a high-level thematic session on "Energy and Transport" organized by UNIDO on the sidelines of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference; ECOSOC's Integration Segment in May 2018; as well as co-organizing several events with UN-OHRLS.

Ms. Ola Zahran, the representative of WIPO, explained that WIPO runs a broad range of technical assistance programmes for LLDCs, which are demand-based and focused on priority needs. She underlined that WIPO has provided many LLDCs with support in developing their national IP policy and has helped to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers in a number of LLDCs. She pointed out that a number of LLDCs have had access to WIPO's Access to Research for Development and Innovation, as well as the Access to Specialized Patent Information programmes. She noted that LLDCs are also benefiting from a range of WIPO projects, capacity-building activities and training in the fields of brand and design, innovation, university IP policy, copyright and collective management, IP commercialization and innovation, patent-related issues, trademarks, collective and certification marks, geographical indications, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. She ended by emphasizing that WIPO's assistance is instrumental for achieving economic diversification and structural transformation in the LLDCs, and thereby contributes to the implementation of the VPoA.

In her remarks, **Ms. Marine Davtya, the representative of UNAIDS**, noted that of all the LLDCs, those in Southern Africa account for the largest proportion of AIDS-related deaths and infection; therefore, they are at the centre of UNAIDS' endeavours to end the AIDS epidemic. She emphasized that UNAIDS is working with its partners to undertake initiatives aimed at engaging LLDCs in Africa and other regions. She concluded by highlighting interlinkages between sexual reproduction, gender-based violence, issues of youth and inequities with regards to services.

In a written submission, **UNOPS** affirmed their readiness to work with other UN entities to address the special needs of LLDCs through its expertise in infrastructure, project management, procurement, human resources and financial management. UNOPS is working closely with most LLDCs through implementing projects in the priority areas of the VPoA. For example, since 2014, UNOPS has supported the Government of Paraguay in the modernization of family agriculture in impoverished areas through projects that supported rehabilitation of 70 agricultural centres and improved more than 13,000 hectares of land around 150 rural villages. In South Sudan, UNOPS is supporting the construction and rehabilitation of public infrastructure through RAPID. UNOPS Executive Director has delivered a

presentation during LLDC Group meeting in September 2018 highlighting the results that UNOPS and LLDCs have achieved together through projects in procurement, infrastructure, and capacity building.

D. Consultations on substantive preparations for the midterm review, including thematic pre-conference events and side events in the lead up to and during the midterm review

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of UN-OHRLLS, emphasized that the outcome of the midterm review, which will be in the form of a political declaration, must be pragmatic, concise and focused on the swift implementation of the VPoA. He underlined the important role played by pre-conference events and activities in supporting the preparations of this outcome document and equipping LLDCs with strong substantive arguments for their negotiations with development partners.

He then gave an overview of the events that UN-OHRLLS has already co-organized. He mentioned the Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Transport, which was held in Kazakhstan in May 2018 and marked the first event of the preparatory process. He described some of the key recommendations for LLDCs of the resulting Astana Ministerial Declaration, including with regard to strengthening transport connectivity, promoting structural economic transformation, spurring international trade, ratifying relevant legal instruments, increasing support for regional integration initiatives, promoting e-commerce, implementing the WTO TFA and mobilizing private sector financing. He stressed that all the above areas must be tackled in the midterm review. He also informed of the inaugural meeting of the International Think Tank for the LLDCs which was held in Mongolia in June 2018 and culminated in the adoption of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration.

Mr. Erdenebileg elaborated on the two side events that UN-OHRLLS organized during this year's HLPF; the first, on aviation, recommended that LLDCs liberalize their aviation sector, upgrade their physical aviation infrastructure and implement global and regional legal agreements on air transport' and the second, on sustainable energy in LLDCs, included recommendations to the creation of predictable, supplier-oriented policies and regulatory frameworks; and the improvement of access to transformational energy for productive use. He went on to summarize the two main recommendations that emerged from the event UN-OHRLLS organized in partnership with UNCTAD entitled "Promoting FDI to LLDCs" at the World Investment Forum. Firstly, he noted that regional integration must be deepened in order to achieve economies of scale and secondly that capacity-building support must be increased in order to improve the business environment in and therefore attract more FDI to LLDCs.

Mr. Erdenebileg then gave an overview of upcoming pre-conference thematic events co-organized by UN-OHRLLS, including on climate change, trade facilitation, ICT connectivity, structural economic transformation and transport corridors. He revealed plans to host a dedicated retreat in New York bringing together LLDCs, transit countries and development partners to consult on the midterm review. Given the importance of the private sector in the implementation of the VPoA, he mentioned that private sector focused events would also be held. He asked partners to share the outcomes of any LLDC-focused events that they have organized or plan to organize, as these represent valuable contributions towards the midterm review.

He informed that UN-OHRLLS, in partnership with the regional commissions and DESA, is implementing a project to promote transport connectivity in LLDCs under the Belt and Road Initiative, funded by China

and running from November 2018 to October 2020. He explained that, as part of the project, regional and global reports on building resilient transport infrastructure in LLDCs will be prepared. He added that national reports are being written by the LLDCs on the implementation of the VPoA, whereas the regional commissions are working with UN-OHRLLS to prepare regional reports that will form background material for the regional review meetings. He also emphasized the value for the outcome document of the 2019 Report of the Secretary-General on VPoA, as well as recent analytical work on LLDCs done by the UN system and of intergovernmental processes at the global level.

He concluded by asking the organizations present to focus their interventions on describing what they think the key priority areas of the outcome document should be, and on signaling whether they plan to organize any side or pre-conference events for the midterm review.

Mr. Rainer Lanz, the representative of WTO provided an overview of recent meetings held at the WTO, including a meeting of the Trade Facilitation Committee and workshops on TFA-related topics, held from 9 to 10 October 2018. He stated that the Committee meeting provided an experience sharing platform with a thematic focus on authorized economic operators, single window, advanced rulings and transit, and the workshops concentrated on issues of transit and donor support. He noted with concern that some projects require funding for the implementation of Category C provisions and some WTO Members experience difficulties in accessing assistance, in light of which, the TFA Facility launched the TFAF Grant Program to abate such obstacles to trade facilitation. The Grant Program, he noted, provides Project Preparation Grants of up to US\$30,000 and Project Implementation Grants of up to US\$200,000 to eligible Members.

Mr. Lanz pointed out the Workshop on Transit, in which OHRLLS made a presentation on improving transit cooperation, trade and trade facilitation for the benefit of the LLDCs and the Workshop on Donor Support, which discussed strategies to attract donors for projects and ways of moving from needs assessment to implementation. He concluded by mentioning that the WTO, OHRLLS and other agencies conducted a Border Agency Cooperation Workshop for English-Speaking SADC country in South Africa from 14 to 16 November 2018.

In her remarks, **Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, the representative of UNCTAD**, cautioned that according to UNCTAD's preliminary assessment, the goals of the VPoA has not been achieved. She pointed out the following trends: growth performance in LLDCs has declined from above 7% in the previous decade to less than 3% currently; LLDCs share in global exports declined and their dependency on exports of primary commodities has increased; FDI has reduced and ODA flows stagnated or shrunk over the recent years. She also pointed out that partnerships that seek to foster productive capacities and structural economic transformation are prerequisites for achieving the goals of the VPoA, and accentuated that the outcome of the midterm Review should be centered on enhancing export diversification, value addition, overall structural economic transformation, investment promotion in non-extractive sectors, trade logistics, trade facilitation and building technological innovation.

Ms. Carpentier went on to highlight the collaborative efforts UNCTAD has undertaken to contribute to the midterm review, including: a series of events for LLDCs to communicate their views and priorities; a review of UNCTAD's activities in support of the VPoA by the agency's Trade and Development Board; an Expert Group Meeting for Asian LLDCs; in collaboration with OHRLLS, a ministerial meeting during the World Investment Forum and forthcoming Ambassadorial level retreats in Geneva and New York. She further informed that UNCTAD plans to provide a detailed sectoral assessment of the progress achieved by the LLDCs since the adoption of the VPoA, with a focus on international trade, trade facilitation,

structural transformation and recommendations to tackle identified challenges. In concluding, she stated that UNCTAD will be launching a Productive Capacities Index for LLDCs prior to the midterm Review to enable LLDCs assess their productive capacities and compare performances with other countries.

Ms. Hong Nguyen, the representative of WCO suggested that as air transport has become a more important mode of transport for LLDCs, UN-OHRLLS should inquire from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on their actions in supporting LLDCs. In the context of promoting e-commerce, the WCO has been working closely with many international organizations and related stakeholders to develop the Framework of Standards on Cross-border E-commerce. She encouraged LLDCs to explore the WCO e-commerce FoS to promote the new trade modality which could become a new engine for economic growth in an effort to integrate to the GVCs by exploring further air cargo services. She informed that WCO would also be holding training workshops on “Air cargo security and Facilitation” in February 2019 and the years to come to help colleagues working in customs administration and aviation authorities understand different related regulations including those on e-commerce and data-sharing standards. **Mr. Erdenebileg** thanked Ms. Nguyen for her interesting intervention and asked her to share the best practices identified by WCO in advance of the midterm review.

Mr. Erdenetsogt Odbayar, Executive Director of the ITT for LLDCs, gave a short summary of the ITT for LLDCs’ recent work in supporting the VPoA. He assured that the Think Tank would be attending and participating in all the upcoming regional meetings. He mentioned a sub-regional workshop related to Priority 5 of the VPoA that the ITT for LLDCs organized in cooperation with UNCTAD and UN-OHRLLS in Mongolia in September 2018, focused on resource-rich LLDCs and ways in which they can structurally transform their economies. He noted that the outcome document of this workshop may be valuable for countries preparing for the midterm review. He also spoke about a research publication that the Think Tank has just completed on Economic diversification of LLDCs: Cases of Mongolia, Bhutan, Nepal and Paraguay which will be launched at the end of the year and which may prove similarly useful. Finally, he informed that the ITT for LLDCs is organizing a sub-regional workshop in cooperation with WIPO on the importance of intellectual property for LLDCs, to be held in Mongolia next year.

Finally, he emphasized the Think Tank’s commitment to working with all organizations present for the benefit of the LLDCs and encouraged participants to look at the ITT’s research portfolio. He underlined the importance of cooperation between different agencies and organizations so as to maximize effectiveness and so as not to duplicate work.

E. Conclusion

In her closing remarks, **Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu** thanked all the participants for their updates, their organizations’ engagement on LLDC issues and their contributions to the implementation of the VPoA, as well as the preparations for the midterm review. She emphasized that UN-OHRLLS wishes to continue collaborating with all organizations, as well as with the regional commissions, on joint pre-conference events and activities. She kindly asked the participants to indicate by email the side or pre-conference events that they would like to organize, and to inform OHRLLS of any substantive documents they are aiming to prepare for the midterm review. Finally, she emphasized how important it is to continue supporting the LLDCs through targeted capacity-building support and international advocacy.

Annex I: List of Participants

Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

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United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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Mr. Hiroyuki Ozaki, Sustainable Development Expert, Email: ozaki@un.org

World Customs Organization (WCO)

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World Health Organization (WHO)

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World Trade Organization (WTO)

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International Think Tank for LLDCs

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Paraguay

H.E. Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations and
Chair of the LLDC Group

UN-OHRLS

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Annex II: Agenda

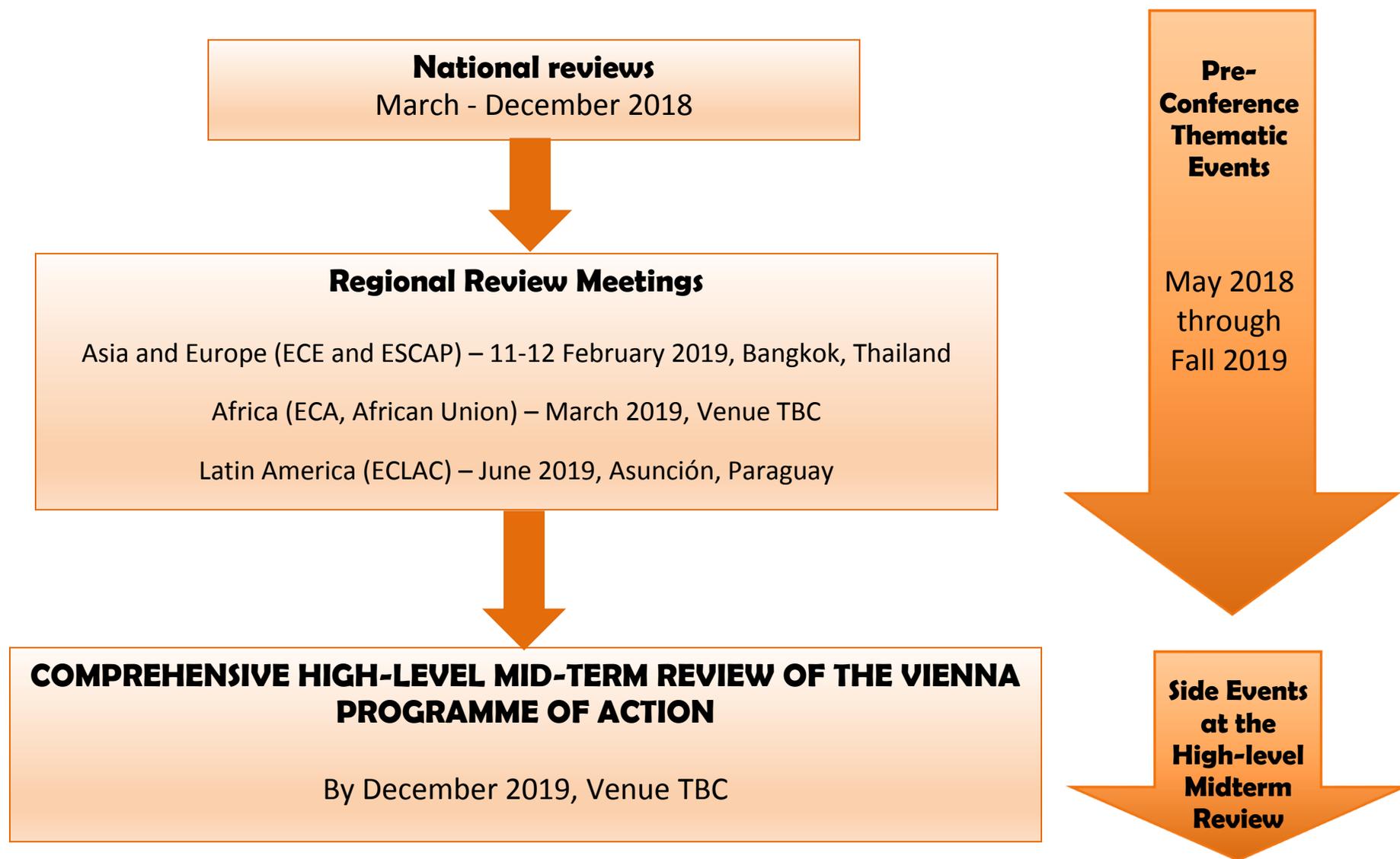
Seventh Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

14 November 2018

Conference Room 8, UN Secretariat Building, New York

10:00 – 10:30	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks by Ms. Fekitamoeloa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States• Remarks by LLDC Group Chair
10:30 – 13:00	<p>Update on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and consultations on the intergovernmental preparations for the midterm review of the implementation of the VPoA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, UN-OHRLLS: Briefing on the status of implementation of the VPoA and the status of preparations for the midterm review• Presentations on the regional level preparations for the midterm review - UN-ECA, UN-ESCAP, UN-ECE and UN-ECLAC• Presentations by participating agencies on their events and activities towards the implementation of the VPoA since last IACG meeting
13:00 – 15:00	<p><i>Lunch break</i></p>
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Consultations on substantive preparations for the midterm review, including thematic pre-conference events and side events in the lead up to and during the midterm review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS (moderator): Briefing on recent and upcoming thematic pre-conference events in the lead up to the midterm review and side events during the midterm review• Briefing by agencies on recent thematic events and activities – WTO Trade Facilitation Committee (WTO); Productive Capacities Index (UNCTAD); Activities of the International Think Tank for LLDCs (ITT for LLDCs); etc.• Proposals by agencies on their planned thematic pre-conference events and side events• Comments and discussion
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Summary of the consultations and recommendations on way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concluding remarks by Ms. Fekitamoeloa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

Annex III: Roadmap for the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the VPoA



Annex IV: Preliminary list of thematic pre-conference events and side events



Comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action

List of Thematic Pre-Conference Events and Meetings May 2018 to October 2019

Event	Organizers	Date and venue
(1) Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs on Trade and Transport with the theme: Importance of transport connectivity and trade facilitation for the achievement of the SDGs	Government of Kazakhstan and UN-OHRLLS Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, World Bank, UNDP, WTO, WCO, ITC ...	Astana, Kazakhstan 16-17 May 2018 COMPLETED
(2) Climate change and migration in Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)	International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN-OHRLLS	New York 30th May 2018 COMPLETED
(3) Inaugural Conference of the International Think Tank for LLDCs June	Government of Mongolia, the International Think Tank for LLDCs, and UN-OHRLLS	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 11-12, June 2018 COMPLETED
(4) "Reaching Global Markets: Connecting LLDCs' Cities through Sustainable Aviation" (2018 HLPF Side Event)	UN-OHRLLS, ICAO	New York 11 July 2018 COMPLETED
(5) "Accelerating the energy transition in LLDCs" (Held in the sidelines of the 2018 HLPF)	Government of Paraguay; Government of Austria; OHRLLS, UNIDO,	New York 12 July 2018 COMPLETED
(6) Expert group Meeting on Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024	UNESCAP, UNCTAD, UNECE	Almaty, Kazakhstan 18-19 September 2018 COMPLETED

(7) Trade Facilitation Workshop on Transit	WTO, UN-OHRLLS	Geneva 11 October 2018 COMPLETED
(8) Sub-regional Workshop on Fostering Structural Transformation and Export Diversification in Selected Asian Landlocked Developing Countries	UNCTAD, ITTLDCs	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 16-17 October 2018 COMPLETED
(9) Promoting Investment in LLDCs	UN-OHRLLS, UNCTAD	In the margins of the World Investment Forum Geneva 25 October 2018 COMPLETED
(10) Border Agency Cooperation Workshop	WTO, WCO, World Bank, UN-OHRLLS, UNCTAD	South Africa 12-15 November 2018 COMPLETED
(11) Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting on LLDCs	UN-OHRLLS	New York 14 November 2018 COMPLETED
(12) Sub-regional Workshop on Fostering Structural Transformation and Export Diversification in Landlocked Developing Countries Southern Africa	UNCTAD	Gaborone, Botswana November 2018
(13) Side event on Climate change	UN-OHRLLS, UNFCCC	In the margins of Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC, Kantowice, Poland 10-14 December 2018
(14) Expert Group Meeting on Trade facilitation measures in landlocked developing countries	UN-OHRLLS	Geneva Sidelines of Trade Facilitation Committee Date TBD
(15) Regional Review Meeting – Euro-Asia Region	UN-OHRLLS, ESCAP, UNECE	Bangkok, Thailand 11-12 February 2019
(16) Strengthening ICT Connectivity and digital inclusion in LLDCs	UN-OHRLLS, ITU (TBC)	In the margins of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Geneva 8–12 April 2019
(17) Regional Review Meeting – Africa Region	UN-OHRLLS, UNECA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia March 2019

(18) Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting on LLDCs	UN-OHRLLS	Geneva April 2019
(19) Expert Group Meeting on Promoting science, technology, innovation and policies for achieving structural economic transformation and sustainable development in LLDCs	UN-OHRLLS	Geneva April 2019
(20) Retreat on LLDCs and MTR of VPoA	OHRLLS	New York May (TBC)
(21) Regional Review Meeting – Latin America Region	UN-OHRLLS, ECLAC	Asuncion, Paraguay June/July 2019
(22) Preconference event on Promoting Euro-Asian Transport and Trade Corridors to be held in Euro-Asia Region	OHRLLS, International Think Tank for LLDCs, ESCAP, UNECE	TBC July/August 2019
(23) Climate technology needs of LLDCs: the CTCN experience Description: Climate Technology Center and Network technical assistance in some LLDCs presentation	UNIDO	

