

Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Introduction

The Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) has been in existence since the preparations for the first ever UN Conference on LLDCs that adopted the Almaty Programme of Action¹ in 2003. Both the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) and the subsequent Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024² (VPoA) called for individual and concerted efforts by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, towards the implementation of the Programmes of Action.

One of the functions of UN-OHRLLS upon its establishment by the UN General Assembly in 2001 through its resolution 56/227, and as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report A/56/645, was to “support, as appropriate, the coordinated follow-up of the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community”. In line with its mandate to coordinate with UN system entities and other international and regional organizations to ensure effective implementation of the international development frameworks for LLDCs³, UN-OHRLLS has since its inception convened and chaired the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on LLDCs.

The IACG has proved to be an effective and efficient tool for well-coordinated and coherent follow-up to the implementation of the Programmes of Action for LLDCs, as well as with the major agreed intergovernmental documents, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and for undertaking of joint initiatives of the wider UN system to support the LLDCs. There is, however, scope for further strengthening of the IACG mechanism. In particular, the 2019 evaluation undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) recommended that UN-OHRLLS strengthens the IACG as a mechanism of coordination around implementation of the Programme of Action. The present Terms of Reference (TOR) have been developed in this context, with a view of strengthening the IACG and enhancing coordinated support of the wider United Nations Development System towards the implementation of the Programme of Action. The TOR sets out the main functions and working methods of the IACG for LLDCs.

¹ 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. See A/RES/58/201.

² See A/RES/69/137.

³ The APoA, in its para 51 requested UN-OHRLLS to “enhance its cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries, to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action...”. Para 77 of the VPoA requested UN-OHRLLS to “ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action...”.

1. Main functions of the IACG

- 1.1. Provide a forum for representatives of its member organizations to exchange information in regard to their work on LLDCs, including critical issues, challenges, gaps, opportunities and best practices in the implementation of the Programme of Action for LLDCs.
- 1.2. Identify areas which require enhanced coordination, complementarity and synergy, in order to curb duplication of activities of member organizations at the global, regional and national levels.
- 1.3. Ensure coherence and maximize synergies and complementarities in the activities of the member organizations in support of LLDCs, through various efforts at the national, regional and global levels, where appropriate, sharing of planned activities and workplans, and developing and implementing Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the PoA to be regularly monitored and updated in the context of the IACG, bearing in mind their respective comparative advantages, expertise and mandates.
- 1.4. Strengthen discussion, coordination of activities, as well as cooperation and collaboration among its member organizations, based on their respective comparative advantages, and relevant mandates and expertise, in the implementation of activities and replicating and scaling up of best practices for the benefit of LLDCs, inter alia, including by undertaking, as appropriate, joint inter-agency projects, missions, training and capacity building activities, studies, reports, advocacy activities and other forms of cooperation, including on thematic areas and region-specific issues.
- 1.5. Facilitate coordinated and inclusive preparations of the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the Programme of Action for LLDCs and other relevant documents, in line with the relevant mandates, including by inviting comments and contributions by the IACG membership.
- 1.6. Enhance outreach activities to inform member states, in particular the Group of LLDCs, and other stakeholders about activities conducted by the members of the IACG towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and SDGs in LLDCs.

2. Composition of membership

- 2.1. The membership of the IACG shall consist of United Nations System Organizations, including its departments, regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies, international and regional financial and development institutions, and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations whose work is relevant to the implementation of the Programme of Action for LLDCs. The IACG meetings shall be attended by representatives identified by the Heads of these departments, commissions, agencies and organizations as focal points for LLDCs.

3. Modalities of operation

- 3.1. The IACG shall meet on a biannual basis, with additional meetings of the IACG convened as necessary.
- 3.2. The LLDC Group Chair will be invited to the opening sessions of the IACG meetings.

- 3.3. The IACG may, on an ad-hoc basis, invite experts, Government officials, representatives of NGOs, private sector and other entities whose expertise may contribute to the IACG's work, as observers and contributors to its discussions.
- 3.4. IACG member organizations are responsible for covering their own costs, within their existing resources, in relation to their participation in the IACG meetings.
- 3.5. In line with its mandate, UN-OHRLLS will facilitate the organization and servicing of the IACG meetings. The relevant information on the work of the IACG, including records of the proceedings of the IACG meetings, list of members organizations of the IACG, and key documents will be posted and regularly updated on UN-OHRLLS public website.