

UNDP ADMINISTRATOR
23rd Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
“Building Momentum towards Gaborone: Partnering for a Decade of Action and Transformation in LLDCs”

26 September 2024, 15:00-18:00, UN Secretariat, Conference Room 2

Hon. **Dr. Lemogang Kwape**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Botswana,
Global Chair of the Group of LLDCs,

H.E **Mr. Philemon Yang**, President of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly

H.E. **Mr. Robert Rae**, President of the UN Economic and Social Council,

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to join this timely discussion on some of the most acute issues affecting the development trajectories of **Landlocked Developing Countries**, or LLDCs.

As part of the UN family, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serves **all LLDCs** through its extensive network of **32 Country Offices** – assisting them in driving forward their national development priorities in line with the SDGs.

With a diverse programme portfolio in LLDCs -- where **some \$1.4 billion is invested on average annually** -- UNDP is committed to advancing LLDCs' priorities in the framework of the **Gaborone Programme of Action**.

We can also help to put the **Global Digital Compact** into action which **emphasizes how harnessing technologies can fast-track progress and close digital divides, particularly for LLDCs**.

LLDCs, where 35% of the population is under the age of 15, have a unique opportunity: these young people stand to gain the most from enhanced digital inclusion.

Indeed, a key element of the **Declaration on Future Generations** is its emphasis on strengthening global capacities to think, plan, and act for the future: **driving new action in 'young countries' to protect the interests of both present and future generations**.¹ This shift is especially crucial for LLDCs.

To this end, UNDP is pushing new frontiers on inclusion. Concretely this entails support to countries to invest in safe and inclusive **Digital Public Infrastructure** that is vital to

¹ <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/the-summit-of-the-future-my-thoughts-on-whats-next/>

set the conditions to expand access to life-changing services like **digital finance** or **healthcare**.

As ever, leveraging new sources of finance is also needed to ensure such transformations in LLDCs as well as the successful implementation of the new **10-year Programme of Action** – ultimately leading to investment in key areas like **strengthening SMEs, job creation** and the **just energy transition**.

That includes assisting countries to use the immense power of **Integrated National Financing Frameworks that help countries to see the full spectrum of financing available to finance the SDGs** – which are now active in 23 LLDCs.

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I also wish to express my deepest appreciation to the **Government of the Republic of Botswana** for hosting the **Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs** this December, and to the **Government of the Republic of Rwanda** for all the preparatory work over the past year – UNDP looks forward to contributing to a most productive event.

In closing, the **Pact for the Future** not only matters as an unambiguous ‘vote of confidence’ in our multilateral system: groundbreaking agreements like the **Global Digital Compact will** catalyze new forms of innovation, dynamic coalitions, and new SDG breakthroughs in LLDCs.

At UNDP, we are committed to advancing the Pact in LLDCs by **leveraging the UN’s comparative advantage** in key areas like building the capacity of government institutions, poverty and inequality reduction, inclusive growth, digital transformation, safeguarding the environment and beyond. Advancing this new form of sustainable development can truly mitigate the risks and unlock new possibilities in our collective future.

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