



**Speaker:** Ovais Sarmad

**Date:** Wednesday, 23 September 2020

**Location:** Virtually

**Time:** 14.00 to 17.00 hrs (CEST)

**Description:** High-Level Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the theme “*Partnering for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and achieving sustainable development in Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in the era of COVID-19.*”

The meeting will review progress made in the implementation of the VPoA, including recommendations and opportunities for accelerating its implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**DES role:** Possible remarks under Agenda item 3 – **General Debate, (c) Principals of international and regional organizations.**



*DES remarks:*

### ***LLDCs and climate change impacts***

- Landlocked developing countries face unique challenges because of their geography and similar to all other nations, these challenges are being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The geographical location of LLDCs makes them especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Ladies and gentlemen, we stand at the cusp of a transformational moment in human history...a moment future generations will identify as pivotal; one that moved us from one era to the next. It is entirely possible, but we must act now to achieve it.
- Will we choose to “go back to normal”? The normal where global temperature rise is on pace to more than double by the end of this century? The normal where our oceans acidify at an alarming rate? The normal that makes deserts out of deforested land and overworked soil?



- Or will we choose to—not build back better, as some say, but build forward? To enact policies that promote green growth, protect biodiversity, embrace renewable energy and more? To accept the possibility that transportation can be different? Construction? Supply chains? Production?
- This is the choice and the moment of truth for national leaders and businesses as they map out their post-pandemic plans and discuss economic recovery from COVID-19. It is a choice, however, that countries must make together.
- The essential blueprints to protect people and planet already exist: the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

### ***What is the UNFCCC process offering to LLDCs?***

- Support that is provided under the Paris Agreement to developing countries is enabling LLDCs to conduct comprehensive vulnerability and risk assessments and to develop adaptation actions that address their unique difficulties.



- Funding is available up to USD 3 million per developing country to formulate National Adaptation Plans through the Green Climate Fund. After that, countries can access financing to implement concrete actions to adapt to climate impacts that they are facing. Several LLDCs have already accessed the GCF, mainly on agricultural related projects, as well as early warning systems.
- There are also regional risk-sharing facilities in several regions designed to provide sovereign insurance to countries to cover agro-production in the face of changes in climate. For example, the Africa Risk Capacity offers coverage for crop production failures due to unfavorable weather conditions, and several landlocked countries have taken advantage of this.
- Technical support is available under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to developing countries and in particular the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to facilitate the development of effective adaptation plans.



- The year 2020 remains an important one for the Paris Agreement, and we are available to support all countries in their efforts to submit updated and ambitious NDCs, as well as their National Adaptation Plans, while climate finance is being scaled up to USD 100 billion per year.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide these remarks.