

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

Report of the Secretary-General

**Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing
Countries for the Decade 2014 - 2024**

Introduction

The report is being prepared in response to the request by the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/217 to the Secretary-General to submit at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The report will provide comprehensive information, analysis and statistical data on recent progress and challenges in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and of the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review. The report will also review the performance of the LLDCs on the Sustainable Development Goals and recent socio-economic development and the progress made in implementing the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA. Furthermore, it will highlight COVID-19 recovery efforts in LLDCs and identify areas that require further action and support. The report will provide important input to the intergovernmental processes including of the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

The report will be prepared based on information provided by entities in the United Nations system and other international organisations. The report will also be based on recent studies and analysis of current data and proceedings of recent meetings. The report will also provide a comprehensive statistical annex.

The Draft Outline of the report

I. Introduction

This section will briefly introduce the report, highlighting the legislative mandate for the report and its scope.

II. An overview of recent socio-economic development in LLDCs including impact of COVID-19 pandemic

The section will analyse recent developments in the social and economic situation of the LLDCs including progress made by LLDCs on the SDGs and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on these countries. The analysis will integrate gender and human rights.

During the reporting period, the need for more effective South-South cooperation as a complement to and not a substitute for North-South cooperation was further underscored by the glaring disparity in access to COVID-19 vaccines, given that about 55 per cent of the eligible population in developed countries had been vaccinated, while in some low-income and middle-income countries, the vaccination rate was less than 1 per cent as of July 2021. Moreover, the pandemic pushed almost 100 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.² In that context, Member States attached great importance to South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships in efforts to find multilateral solutions to challenges requiring international collective action, as envisaged in Sustainable Development Goal 17.¹ The significance of the South-South response to the COVID-19 pandemic was underscored by many delegations during the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. They emphasized that the solidarity underpinning South-South cooperation had enabled many developing countries to obtain urgently needed medications, vaccines and other medical supplies from their global South

partners during the pandemic. The enhanced value of South-South cooperation revealed as a result of the pandemic is described in the report of the twentieth session of the High-level Committee (A/76/39), which highlights some new priorities for South-South cooperation necessitated by the pandemic, including the heightened need for enhanced collaboration to improve health-care systems, social protection systems and numerous other public servicesⁱⁱ.

III. Status of implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action

The section will assess the progress made in the implementation of the VPoA highlighting the major progress and challenges experienced including due to COVID-19. It will be prepared using inputs submitted by Member States, UN system organizations and other relevant international organizations and analysis of available relevant statistical data for each priority area. The specific sub sections will be namely-

- *Fundamental Transit Policy issues.*
- *Infrastructure Development and Maintenance*
- *International Trade and Trade Facilitation*
- *Regional Integration and cooperation*
- *Structural economic transformation*
- *Means of implementation*

The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and UNDP supported the creation of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, launched in Ulaanbaatar, in July 2009. The think tank seeks to promote collaboration among landlocked developing countries and partners of the South to undertake quality research, provide policy advice and assist in capacity -building. It also provides a platform for those countries and partners of the South and the North to disseminate and share information and good practices and support the countries in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. In that context, under the South-South Global Thinkers initiative, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation convened four policy dialogues with members of that global coalition during the reporting periodⁱⁱⁱ

UNCTAD supported landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through South-South and triangular cooperation to improve their transport systems (transport infrastructure and logistics) and ensure better access to worldwide markets while contributing to the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.^{iv}

IV. Follow-up and review and progress on Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years

The section will highlight progress in other activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations relating to implementation of the priorities of the VPoA including the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the VPoA.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

This section will provide key recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action based on the analysis provided in the report.

Global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, have increased the urgency of the need for international collective action in the face of challenges that are impossible to address without effective international cooperation. Countries are thus encouraged to support the South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives of the United Nations development system, particularly those at the country level under the leadership of the resident coordinator.^v

The relevant United Nations organizations are encouraged to increase their support for South-South initiatives to enable developing countries to boost economic growth and structural transformation in a sustainable

manner. In doing so, United Nations organizations should increasingly catalyse innovative financing mechanisms that comprise traditional development assistance from the North supplemented by funding from the private sector and sources led by the global South such as national and regional development banks, the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.^{vi}

Statistical Annex

The statistical annex will provide, in a tabular form, referenced, national-level data on selected VPoA indicators discussed in the report.

ⁱ A/76/403

ⁱⁱ A/76/403

ⁱⁱⁱ SSC/20/1

^{iv} A/76/403

^v A/76/403

^{vi} A/76/403