



Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

High-level Thematic Roundtable 4: Building sustainable infrastructure, strengthening connectivity, and promoting unfettered transit systems for landlocked developing countries.

Thursday, 7 August 2025, 10 am – 1 pm

Summary by the Co-chairs

I have the honour to speak on behalf of H.E. Ms. Madina Sissoko Dembele, Minister Transportation and Infrastructure of Mali, cochair of Roundtable 4 on “Building sustainable infrastructure, strengthening connectivity, and promoting unfettered transit systems for landlocked developing countries.”

At the roundtable, participants highlighted that landlocked developing countries face persistent challenges in transport, trade, and transit due to their lack of direct access to the sea and limited infrastructure. It was noted that these constraints raise trade costs, reduce competitiveness, and hinder progress toward sustainable development.

Several participants stressed the importance of improving regional road and rail networks and called for greater harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks to facilitate smoother cross-border trade and transit.

The role of air transport was also noted as vital for enhancing connectivity, though many pointed to the high investment costs and the need for innovative financing solutions tailored to LLDCs’ circumstances.

Speakers underscored the potential of digital technologies to reduce reliance on physical infrastructure, improve logistics, and connect businesses in LLDCs to global markets, urging investments in expanding internet access and digital infrastructure.

The significance of sustainable and resilient infrastructure was emphasized, with calls to incorporate climate considerations and to promote public-private partnerships to bridge financing gaps.

Several delegates highlighted the value of regional cooperation and integration, noting that collaborative infrastructure projects and

coordinated policies among neighbouring countries are essential for overcoming geographic constraints.

Representatives from international organizations stressed the need for capacity-building support to help LLDCs develop and maintain complex infrastructure projects, alongside technology transfer and innovation.

Finally, speakers emphasized that coordinated efforts, enhanced financing, and strengthened partnerships – both regional and international – are essential to overcoming LLDCs' connectivity and infrastructure challenges.
