

ABOUT LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Q1. What is a landlocked developing country (LLDC)?

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are locked out: with no direct territorial access to the sea, they struggle with international trade, connectivity, and economic development.

Without direct access to coastal ports, LLDCs must rely on neighbouring 'transit' countries to connect them with international markets. This can lead to increased transportation trade costs, delays in the movement of goods, and susceptibility to political and economic instability in transit countries. These challenges often result in reduced foreign direct investment, limited export opportunities, and slower economic growth.

So, on top of challenges faced by all developing countries, LLDCs also face substantially increased costs for trade and transport because of their geographic location. On average, LLDCs pay more than double their neighbours in transport costs to send and receive merchandise from overseas markets.

Q2. How many countries are categorized as LLDCs?

There is a total of 32 LLDCs: Afghanistan; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bhutan; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Central African Republic; Chad; Eswatini; Ethiopia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; North Macedonia; Malawi; Mali; Mongolia; Nepal; Niger; Paraguay; Republic of Moldova; Rwanda; South Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Uzbekistan; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

Q3. How many people live in the LLDCs?

577 million people live in the LLDCs.

Q4. What makes the landlocked developing countries vulnerable?

Remembering the LLDCs are also developing countries, their distance from ports acts as a further complication in their development efforts. Their costs tend to be extremely high due to the large distances they have to travel to reach the nearest seaport, combined with cumbersome and expensive trade procedures and often insufficient infrastructure.

Of the 32 LLDCs, half are facing moderate to severe food insecurity. Half are also Least Developed Countries.

ABOUT LLDC3

Q5. What is LLDC3?

LLDC3 is the Third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries.

Cut off from the global marketplace and without the means to develop adequate transport and logistics infrastructure, landlocked developing countries face unique and significant challenges in achieving the sustainable development goals.

The Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries opens an opportunity to explore meaningful partnerships to unlock the potential of landlocked developing countries.

Innovative solutions, strategic partnerships, and increased investment can help to address these challenges and unlock the full potential of these nations.

By supporting the LLDCs, we can help to build a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

Q6. When and where is LLDC3 scheduled?

LLDC3 will be held in Awaza, Turkmenistan from 5-8 August 2025.

Q7. Why is LLDC3 taking place now?

LLDC3 is an opportunity to unlock the full potential of LLDCs and address the challenges faced by some of the world's most marginalized countries. It is a platform to explore

innovative solutions, build meaningful and strategic partnerships, and increase the investment in LLDCs.

Landlocked developing countries have the ideas and know what they need to prosper. By supporting them at LLDC3 with partnerships, innovations and cooperation, we can help to build a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

Q8. What are the main topics that will be tackled in the conference?

The conversations at LLDC3 will be based around five priority areas:

1. Transit transport and connectivity
2. Structural transformation and STI
3. Trade, trade facilitation, value chain and regional integration
4. Climate change and energy transition
5. Means of Implementation

Q10. Who is organizing LLDC3?

LLDC3 is organised by UN-OHRLLS, the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

The Office was established in 2001 and serves 92 vulnerable states: 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and 39 Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Under the leadership of High Representative Rabab Fatima, OHRLLS mobilizes international support for the three vulnerable country groups and raises awareness about the economic, social and environmental potential that exists in these countries to ensure that the pressing needs of the 1.1 billion people who live in them, remain high on the international agenda.

PARTICIPATION IN LLDC3

Q11. Who will be attending LLDC3?

Participants from governments of LLDCs, transit developing countries, donor countries, UN, and other international organizations and the private sector will come together to shape the new development agenda for the LLDCs for the coming decade.

The conference will take place at the level of Heads of State and Government.

Q12. Who can participate in LLDC3?

The 3rd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries is a conference for all member states of the United Nations: landlocked developing countries, their transit country neighbours, development partner nations and all others.

The following may also participate in the Conference:

- Members of the specialized agencies
- Intergovernmental organizations
- International financial institutions and other international bodies
- Associate members of the regional commissions
- Organisations and bodies of the United Nations
- Non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations
- Academic institutions and the scientific community
- The private sector
- Philanthropic organizations
- Youth
- Media

Q13. How can I make my voice heard in LLDC3?

Aside from the conference, the best way to participate right now is to spread the word using the hashtags #Landlocked and #LLDC3.

Conference information is available on the official website (un.org/landlocked) and on the various social media accounts of UN-OHRLLS.

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

Q14. What happened in LLDC2?

LLDC2 was held in Vienna, Austria from 3 – 5 November 2014. Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for the decade 2014-2024 was achieved through LLDC2. The Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) was adopted at LLDC2: a ten-year plan to promote the sustainable development of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).