



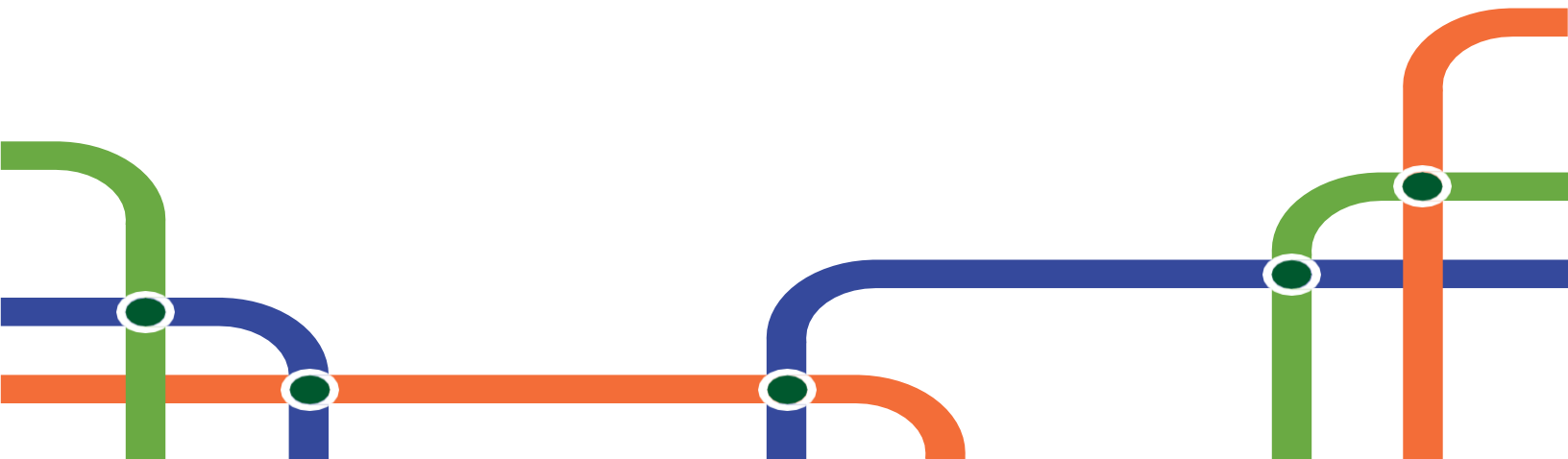
**Third United Nations
Conference on
Landlocked Developing
Countries**

Women Leaders Forum at LLDC3

7 August 2025

Awaza, Turkmenistan

SUMMARY REPORT



Opening session

The Women Leaders' Forum at LLDC3 opened with a strong call to action, underscoring that gender equality is central to the sustainable development of landlocked developing countries. Speakers emphasized that neither the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development nor the successful implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action can be achieved without the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls. Moreover, women's empowerment is both a human rights imperative and a driver of economic growth, social stability, peace, and trust. While progress has been made in women's political representation, leadership, and education, significant challenges persist, including poverty, food insecurity, informal employment, limited access to technology, and insufficient gender-responsive policies.

Key messages highlighted included:

- Sustainable development of LLDCs is impossible without the full and equal participation of women and girls.
- Progress has been made in women's representation in parliaments, leadership, and education, but major gaps remain in poverty, food security, informal employment, and digital access.
- Empowering women is both a human rights imperative and a driver of economic growth, peace, and stability.
- Urgent need to dismantle legal, social, and economic barriers that hinder gender equality.

Priority actions include:

- Expanding women's economic opportunities through access to finance, training, and inclusive labor policies.
- Bridging digital and knowledge divide with investments in STEM and digital education.
- Strengthening women's leadership, representation, and gender-responsive governance.
- National reforms highlight progress in maternal health, education, socio-economic entrepreneurship, family support policies, and elimination of violence and discrimination.
- Regional cooperation, including women leaders' dialogues, is vital to advancing equality and implementing the Awaza Programme of Action.

- Collective action is needed to ensure women and girls in LLDCs are not left behind and can contribute fully to sustainable development, peace, and prosperity.

Fireside discussion session

Fireside discussion session included diverse stakeholders including Ministers, Speakers of Parliament, Civil Society, Business, Youth and UN entities. In addition, A strong call to action was presented, urging leaders and stakeholders to prioritize women's leadership at all levels of political, economic, and public life. The call to action recognizes the critical role of gender equality and women's empowerment in achieving sustainable development.

Key Messages

- Women in LLDCs are not just beneficiaries but essential leaders of sustainable growth, peace, and resilience.
- Despite progress in representation, women still face high levels of poverty, limited access to healthcare, education (especially STEM), markets, finance, and digital technology, with transport and mobility remaining critical challenges.
- Unlocking women's potential through access to finance, training, entrepreneurship, and inclusive labor markets drives productivity and growth.
- Inclusive leadership and greater participation of women in parliaments, governance, and crisis response ensure stronger institutions and more resilient societies.
- South-South cooperation, regional women leaders' dialogues, and partnerships amplify solutions, from entrepreneurship to climate-smart infrastructure and digital inclusion.
- Commitments must translate into concrete reforms, investments, and systems that dismantle legal, social, and economic barriers.
- Quality, gender-disaggregated data and gender-responsive budgeting are essential for smart policymaking and accountability.

Highlighted Priorities

- Invest in healthcare, education, STEM, and digital literacy for women and girls.
- Support women-led enterprises and ensure access to finance and markets.
- Expand gender-responsive transport and infrastructure to reduce isolation in LLDCs.
- Strengthen inclusive governance and women's leadership at all levels.

- Promote South-South and regional cooperation to share models of success.
- Ensure quality data systems to track inequalities and guide effective policy.
- Mobilize collective action to make the new LLDC Programme of Action a true decade of women's empowerment.