



Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

LLDC3 Connectivity Track

Summary Presentation of the Digital Potential Beyond Boundaries and Transport and Transit Segments

*Delivered at the closing plenary of the LLDC3
10.00 am*

8 August 2025, Awaza, Turkmenistan

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, and Partners,

The Connectivity Track of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) featured two key segments: digital connectivity and transport and transit connectivity.

In the digital segment, participants reaffirmed that digital transformation is a cornerstone of inclusive growth and resilience for LLDCs. Despite geographical barriers, universal and meaningful digital connectivity is achievable. Currently, only 39% of LLDC populations are online.

Delegates emphasized that access must be matched with meaningful use—through community empowerment, digital public goods, and inclusive tools such as e-commerce platforms. Innovative financing was also spotlighted, including a €60 million AIIB satellite investment and support through the EU’s Global Gateway. The discussion featured a number of good examples. Global partnerships, particularly the ITU’s Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, have mobilized over \$76 billion in pledges—more than \$30 billion targeting LLDCs—turning commitment and ambition into action.

Delegations called for scaling up infrastructure investment, empowering local communities—especially women and youth—and creating enabling policy environments to foster digital trade.

In the transport and transit segment, the message was clear: landlocked cannot mean disconnected. LLDCs face massive infrastructure deficits which significantly increase trade and transit costs. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated regional planning, blended finance, and new bankable projects aligned with trade corridors.

Delegates highlighted the urgency of climate-resilient and sustainable transport, including the electrification of fleets and the use of green bonds. Legal harmonization, among others through accessing the Unified Railway Law which enhances intercontinental rail freight efficiency, is essential.

Digital solutions like eTIR and eCMR were praised for streamlining customs and enabling paperless transport and trade. Tools from UN/CEFACT and the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory are helping ensure that new investments are strategically coordinated.

The Middle Corridor (Trans-Caspian Route) was cited as evidence that integrated infrastructure can unlock trade, attract investment, and generate employment. Regional initiatives like TRACECA,

CAREC, and partnerships including with AIIB, IRU, World Bank and UNECE are all paving the way for stronger connectivity.

In closing, delegates across both segments reaffirmed that transforming LLDCs into “landlinked” economies requires sustained political commitment, innovative financing, legal modernization, and inclusive partnerships.